

Hafa Adai!

Hofschneider: We need to be very careful. **PAGE 2**
Memorial mass honors Facey's memory. **PAGE 2**

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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TUESDAY JULY 21, 2020

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TERMS OF 2 CEC COMMISSIONERS EXPIRE

Election body has no quorum

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board has no quorum as the terms of two commissioners expire today, Tuesday, leaving the panel with only three commissioners.

See **ELECTION** on **Page 4**



Santos



Manglona



YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Young volunteers of a group that calls itself Saipan-cleanup collect trash during one of several clean-ups they did over several weeks in different sites on the island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Story on **Page 5**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 20, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	315	4	319
Recovered	222	13	235
Active	75	4	78
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		18,728	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		11,092**	

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Atalig: PUA is taxable

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With about a \$15-million payment for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance rolling out this week, the Department of Finance is reminding all who are set to receive the

federal assistance that PUA is taxable.

"The PUA is taxable," Finance Secretary David Atalig said. "The PUA applicants or recipients are able to get their federal tax taken out. I believe it's 10% of the amount that

See **ATALIG** on **Page 4**

Mariana Resort to be used as quarantine site

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The largely unused Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi will become a designated quarantine site starting this Thursday.

Warren Villagomez, who heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, said in the news briefing last July 17 that, based on their action plan meeting last July 16, Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi should be in full implementation by July 23.

Mariana Resort will be a

quarantine site—not an alternate care site. The difference between the two, Villagomez

See **RESORT** on **Page 4**



Dotts



Nutting



Hasselback

IPI hires veteran lawyers to handle suits

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has beefed up its legal team with veteran lawyers to face a number of lawsuits filed against the company, both in local and federal courts.

IPI hired lawyer Stephen J. Nutting as its counsel in two separate lawsuits filed by its former contractor before the federal court. Nutting notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday of his appearance as IPI's counsel in the two cases

See **IPI** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

If you fancy going on a road trip up north, why not drop by Latte Stone & Slow House?

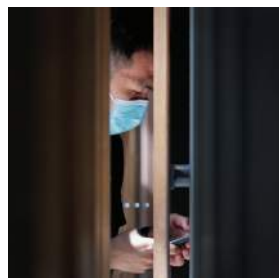
PAGE 11



NATION

Thousands are set to walk off their jobs today in more than two dozen U.S. cities.

PAGE 12



ASIA

China's latest coronavirus outbreak has spread to a second city in the northwestern region.

PAGE 13



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



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FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Hofschneider: We need to be very careful

» **Senate panel considering all beneficiaries in review of bill funding 25% share of retiree pension**

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate vice president Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) stressed yesterday that support for the casino industry is needed in the Commonwealth, considering that CNMI retiree

ees, senatorial districts, hospitals, and schools all depend on the funds generated from either the annual casino license fee or the casino gross revenue tax.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Hofschneider highlighted the need to support

policies that could revive the casino operations, which has been gravely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We need to support the industry. Right now, it's a taller task for us to do because there's no telling how this pandemic is going to restrict our borders from the potential customers coming in. We need to figure it out which areas or conditions in our laws need updating or changing, so that

the casino industry here in the CNMI can reopen or strike some interests," he said.

Despite controversies, interest for the casino remains high, given its benefits to the community, among which is the allocation of the casino gross revenue tax to fund 25% of retirees' pension.

Originally intended to be funded through the casino licensing fee under Public Law 18-56, allocation for the

25% of the retiree pension is now extracted from the gross revenue tax, through Public Law 20-10.

The \$15-million casino license fee, based on the law, is currently allocated for the senatorial districts to use, with \$2 million each for Tinian and Rota, and \$11 million for Saipan and the Northern Islands, with \$1.5 million going to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, and \$9.5 million going to Saipan and the Northern Islands.

With inconsistent revenue coming from the CNMI's lone casino, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, House Bill 21-76, HS1 was introduced to secure the retirees' 25%, by reallocating the entire \$15 million casino license fee to it. The bill unanimously passed the House in April, and is now with the Senate Fiscal

Affairs Committee for review.

"The bill is currently in the committee and we're waiting for comments from the respective senatorial districts and other entities," Hofschneider said.



Hofschneider

'We need to be very careful'

In compliance with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' directive to close casinos and gaming-related businesses due to COVID-19, IPI shut down its casino last

March 17, which led to loss of income and the furlough of hundreds of its employees.

With lack of revenue from the casino, the government, according to Hofschneider, has been getting money from the general fund to provide for the retirees' 25% pension.

"Everyone knows that the casino right now is not in operation. That means there's

See **HOFSCHNEIDER** on Page 4

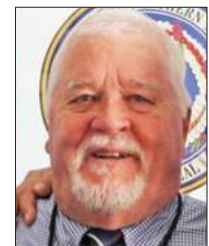
Memorial mass honors Facey's memory

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mount Carmel Cathedral Diocese held a memorial mass last July 17 to honor the late Jerold "Jerry" Facey, who was an active member of the community and who also founded Facey Farms in Papago.

One of Facey's friends, Juan "Pan" Guerrero, gave a eulogy at the memorial. Rev. Fr. Fran Hezel, S.J. from the Archdiocese of Agaña, presided over the mass, assisted by Rev. Deacon Tony Yarobwemal. The Ave Maria Choir also sang a variety of hymns, songs, in English and Palauan.

Guerrero started off his eulogy with a message from Facey's son, John Paul Facey. "We wish we can be there for this mass, we miss him



Facey

very much and it is really special to know that he really had good friends and family that come together to say goodbye."

Guerrero stated that he woke up on July 4 to the news that he needed to write a eulogy for Facey, which prompted a lot of self-questionings about how he would write this eulogy about someone whom he loves, someone whom he considered a brother, and a true friend that "any man can ever ask for."

"Today is a special day for Jerry. We are here to pray for him and honor him, honor him in our life and in our memories," said Guerrero. "So where do I start? What is a eulogy? I actually googled the meaning and laughed at the

irony of having to write something in praise of a special person after they have died."

Guerrero said that he and Facey actually talked about it before and that he was able to convince his brother, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), to sponsor a House resolution honoring Facey last Dec. 15, 2014. The resolution, H.R. 18-70, honored Facey "for his outstanding services to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, most especially the citizens of the Commonwealth."

The resolution states that Facey was a familiar fixture in the islands' volunteer groups as he was a member of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Veterans of Foreign Wars Office, as well as a board

member of the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

Guerrero said that John Paul Facey had asked him to accept the resolution on behalf of the Facey family, and he later showed John Paul Facey pictures and videos of the presentation.

"After he moved to Arizona several years ago, I asked him many times, 'Jerry, why do you have to leave Saipan?' I can hear his voice in my head, telling me that he had to go for his health, to be close to good medical services," said Guerrero.

Guerrero added that every time Jerry Facey planned a trip to Saipan, he would call Guer-

See **MEMORIAL** on Page 4



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20% Off Dinner at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood
10% Off all ARC Café Items
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*Reservations available on Friday and Saturday only
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions.
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rate

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute remains at a standstill and will continue

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In an interview with Agnes McPhetres, NMTI chief

See NMTI on Next Page

FOR NOV. 3 GENERAL ELECTION

Manglona is first to file candidacy

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REPORTER

Rota Municipal Council chief of staff Lorita Mesngon Manglona filed yesterday afternoon her candidacy for a seat in the Rota Municipal Council, making her the first one to file a candidacy with the Commonwealth Election Commission for the upcoming Nov. 3 general election.

Less than three hours after Manglona, through a representative, filed her candidacy, retired U.S. Navy Vincent Raymond Seman Aldan also filed his candidacy as an independent for a Precinct 1 seat in

the House of Representatives, making him the first one on Saipan to file a candidacy for this year’s election.

Manglona, 51, said in a phone interview she is running because she cares for the people and the island of Rota, that she has a compassionate heart and treat people equally. “I will be the voice of the people,” she added.

There are three seats for the Rota Municipal Council.

Manglona used to serve as the executive secretary of then-Rota senator Jovita Taimanao. She previously worked with the Rota Office

of the Personnel Management and as an administrative officer at the Department of Public Lands Compliance Division on Saipan.

The CEC has been accepting the filing of submission of petitions and candidacies since last July 6. Aug. 5 is the deadline to submit nominating petitions and candidacies.

Aldan, 48, a resident of As Lito, retired from the U.S. Navy in 2017. He was an instructor/trades coordinator at the Northern Marianas Technical Institution where he teaches power generation.

In a later interview, Aldan

said that what’s needed right now is enforcement of existing laws. “It’s sad to say that the politicians know that there is a law because they created the law. The thing that is lacking is enforcement of the law,” he said.

Aldan said he also believes in a well established trade school. “You need a very knowledgeable base skilled labor workforce. A reliable workforce,” he said, adding that this could minimize the number of foreign workers being brought in.

Aldan said if the CNMI finds a way to ensure that there are less foreign workers coming in and more of the local workforce actually working, a lot of funds would be circulating within the economy.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-20-006

Archaeological Services for S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a sewerline replacement in Lower MIHA & the construction of a waterline replacement in San Antonio, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The projects have been broken down into the following detail:

S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) – This project proposes to install approximately 700 linear feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer pipe in order to abandon an existing collapsed sewerline that was installed on private property. The project includes the installation of new manholes and the reconnection of existing sewer service laterals to the new sewer main.

W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement – The project aims to upgrade and replace the existing ACP distribution main in San Antonio Village. This project will install about 2.1 miles of new 6-inch distribution main and .50 miles of 4-inch distribution main. The project will also include the replacement of all fire hydrants, gate valves, relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals, installation of new flush hydrants, air release valves, and asphalt road restoration.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - a. Background research design and work plan;
 - b. Archival background information;
 - c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - d. Past planning, research and studies;
 - e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - f. The degree of federal involvement;
 - g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
3. Deliverables
 - a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the new waterline and sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked “CUC-RFP-20-006: Archaeological Services For Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.



All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP; if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator



UNITED STATES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 22, 2020 from 1pm to 3pm at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center- Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of July 22, 2020

IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2020

V. Reports

a. Chairperson

b. State Plan Committee Chairperson

c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson

d. Executive Director

VI. Old Business

a. 2020 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Update

b. Accessibility in the CNMI Initiative Update

VII. New Business

a. COVID-19 Pandemic Update

b. Emergency Preparedness Update

VIII. Action Items

IX. Miscellaneous

X. Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

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The projects have been broken down into the following detail:

S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) – This project proposes to install approximately 700 linear feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer pipe in order to abandon an existing collapsed sewerline that was installed on private property. The project includes the installation of new manholes and the reconnection of existing sewer service laterals to the new sewer main.

W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement – The project aims to upgrade and replace the existing ACP distribution main in San Antonio Village. This project will install about 2.1 miles of new 6-inch distribution main and .50 miles of 4-inch distribution main. The project will also include the replacement of all fire hydrants, gate valves, relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals, installation of new flush hydrants, air release valves, and asphalt road restoration.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - a. Background research design and work plan;
 - b. Archival background information;
 - c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - d. Past planning, research and studies;
 - e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - f. The degree of federal involvement;
 - g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
3. Deliverables
 - a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the new waterline and sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked “CUC-RFP-20-006: Archaeological Services For Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.



All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP; if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 22, 2020 from 1pm to 3pm at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center- Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of July 22, 2020

IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2020

V. Reports

a. Chairperson

b. State Plan Committee Chairperson

c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson

d. Executive Director

VI. Old Business

a. 2020 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Update

b. Accessibility in the CNMI Initiative Update

VII. New Business

a. COVID-19 Pandemic Update

b. Emergency Preparedness Update

VIII. Action Items

IX. Miscellaneous

X. Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

PBS Guam to air special LibDay program

MANGILAO, Guam—PBS Guam KGTF Channel 12 will be broadcasting a one-hour Liberation Day special called, “76th Guam Liberation Day Commemoration” on July 21, 2020, at 10am, followed by the rebroadcast of the 76th Guam Liberation Day Parade, which will take place today, July 21.

The one-hour special, “76th Guam Liberation Day Commemoration,” will showcase historical Liberation Day Parade moments from as far back as 1995. Together with the Liberation Day Parade itself this year,

the public will be treated to over five hours of PBS, KGTF Channel 12’s Liberation programming.

“July has been a month of celebration. From annual Liberation festivities, World War II village and memorial ceremonies, to our annual parade. This month deserves to be celebrated, and the COVID-19 virus is not going to take that away from us,” said Ina Carillo, general manager. “This is a time not only for celebration but for reflection. A time for our community to show our respect and honor our liberators, our sol-

diers, our vets, and most especially our survivors. I hope that you enjoy our Liberation Coverage this year as we at PBS pay respect to those who survived the atrocities of the war and those who fought for our freedom.”

The “76th Guam Liberation Day Commemoration” will air on PBS GUAM, KGTF Channel 12 at 10am on July 21, 2020, followed by the rebroadcast of the 76th Liberation Day Parade in its entirety at 11am; on Sunday, July 26, 2020, at 10:30am, followed by the rebroadcast of the 76th Liberation Day Parade at 11:30am.

HOFSCHEIDER

From Page 2

no revenue. But the retirees are still getting paid their full pension. So despite not having that revenue, the retirees are still getting their 25%,” he said. “The administration and the Legislature are committed to the retirees to get their full pension. At the same time, we have people that are terminated, furloughed, and people are getting paid their 64-hour per pay period but the retirees are getting their full pension.”

As for the passage of H.B. 21-76, HS1, the Senate vice president stressed the need to be very careful. “We’re taking it a step at a time because everyone knows the situation with IPI. Is there really going to be \$15 million in August? That is the big

question. We hope that it comes back around, for the operations of the casino to materialize again, to reopen, so that we can generate some funds.”

“But of course,” he added, “the elephant in the room here is the situation with the pandemic. We don’t know how long this thing’s going to last. We’re all hoping that it’s going to be over soon but it’s not the case.”

Reviving the casino industry

The Senate vice president also stressed that everyone in the Senate supports the retirement fund for the retirees, and that that there is no urgency to the bill, because Public Law 20-10 already mandates that the first \$22 million of the casino gross revenue tax are to be appropriated to the pension.

What the CNMI needs to figure out, he said, is how to get back to

having a vibrant economy.

“Everything here is contingent upon the availability of funds. We should be looking for ways to try and revive the casino industry because, obviously, it generated a lot of revenue over the last three, four years,” he said.

According to Hofschneider, the CNMI, through the industry, was able to settle a lot of its debts, pay people their bonuses, provide funds for the retirees, schools, and public hospital, among others.

“We need to find an alternative revenue source. We need to be looking at other options that would be able to match or come close to the kind of revenue output that this exclusive licensee operator was able to produce. We all need to figure out a way to assist the casino industry come back to its feet,” he added.

NMTI

From Page 3

executive officer, she said the committee will cease to exist on Oct. 2 if a transition plan is not completed and submitted within 180 days after

the organization of the Committee on Transition. However, a Committee on Transition should have been established within 15 days after the organization of the board of trustees on March 12.

McPhetres added that it is important to finally transfer assets, re-

cords, and other important things to the board of trustees. “Everything is still pending. Like the land [in Lower Base and Koblerville] is still not given to NMTI because there is no paper. It is like you rent something and you have not signed the contract and it is not complete yet,” she said.

ELECTION

From Page 1

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez disclosed yesterday that the term of commissioners Joseph E. Santos of Tinian and Aguiguan and Lelanie M. Manglona of Rota will expire today. This means the board has no quorum as this leaves Tinian and Aguiguan with no commissioner, and Rota with only commissioner, Esther A. Yatar. Saipan and

the Northern Islands currently have two commissioners—Jesus I. Sablan and Henry Emery Kaipat. Sablan is the current board chairman.

With the expiration of the terms of Santos and Manglona, there are now six vacant commissioner’s positions, Villagomez said.

To have a quorum, the commission need five commissioners in all, and at least one for each island.

All nine commissioners are appointed by the governor and are subject to the advice and consent of

the Senate.

Villagomez also reminded the public yesterday that they are open on Fridays, except holidays, starting today, from 8am to 4pm. Villagomez said they are open even during lunch hour.

CEC has been accepting the filing of submission of petitions and candidacies since last July 6 for the upcoming Nov. 3 general election.

Aug. 5 is the deadline to submit nominating petition and candidacy. The election is on Nov. 3.

RESORT

From Page 1

said, is that an alternate care site is an actual medical care site that will treat patients, where they can bring in patients to provide care, while a quarantine site is where arriving passengers are quarantined upon arriving on Saipan.

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan used to be the government’s quarantine site. The Kanoa Resort in Supe, on the other hand, is the alternate care site, or ACS.

When asked why Kanoa Resort was chosen as the designated ACS instead of Mariana Resort & Spa and if distance was a factor since Kanoa Resort is closer to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Esther Muña, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer, said that they did try Mariana

Resort at the start but because it is mostly run by local residents, many were fearful of contracting the virus and did not want to run it.

“Some local people go to work at Mariana Resort, but their family don’t want to accept them back because they fear catching the virus,” said Villagomez. He added that they wouldn’t need a contract to run Mariana Resort, but local people were hesitant to run it, even if they were going to get paid.

At the same time, Mariana Resort needed a lot of repairs in order for it to run smoothly and safely. Villagomez said that, because arriving passengers were coming in, the resort was not ready and will take a while to fix up, so it was best to use Kanoa Resort.

Another factor that was considered in deciding that Kanoa Resort will be used as an ACS was that there’s already a space there that will be used for quarantine, and if they were to ex-

tend the hospital, there are rooms that they can use, he added.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 37 confirmed COVID-19 cases with two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, four cases tested positive from the Department of Defense. Two reported recent travel from the continental U.S. and were identified in quarantine.

Additionally, the Guam Public Health Laboratory will be closed today, July 21, in observance of Liberation Day and there will be no tests run on Tuesday. GPHL will reopen on Wednesday, July 22.

To date, Guam has a total of 319 confirmed cases with five deaths, 235 released from isolation, and 79 active cases. Of those cases, 270 are classified as civilians and 49 are military service members.

PBS Guam is also known as the Guam Educational Telecommunications Corp.,

For more information, contact PBS

Guam at 734-5483 or visit www.pbsguam.org. Find us on Facebook or Instagram @pbsguam or visit its website at www.pbsguam.org. (PR)

MEMORIAL

From Page 2

tero to set aside some time to meet with him for breakfast. “On his last trip to Saipan in December last year, we met at Herman’s Tan Marikita. He would always wear his favorite Hawaiian print shirt. I told him many times that either his shirt is getting too small or he is getting too big,” said Guerrero.

“I remember his last word to me. He said that he wanted to spend his remaining days with his family, with his children and grandchildren,” said Guerrero. “...My kids knew him always as Uncle Jerry, and they loved him dearly. How do we say goodbye to someone that we love? But goodbye we must. Goodbye, my friend. Yes, we will always love you and you will continue to live in our hearts. You have a special place with us always.”

IPI

From Page 1

filed by U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Nutting asked the court that all pleadings and other documents in the cases be served on him.

He also asked the court to be added to the court’s electronic filing system for access to all the previous filings made by the parties in the lawsuits.

The law firm of O’Connor withdrew as counsel for IPI in the two cases.

U.S.A. Fanter is suing IPI for allegedly refusing to pay \$2,089,345 over landscaping improvements for IPI’s hotel-casino project in Garapan. U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay \$2.08 million in contract damages. The company also seeks payment in interest and attorney’s fees.

IPI argues that U.S.A. Fanter has not complied with the mandatory mediation clause.

U.S.A. Fanter also asked the court

Another close friend of Jerry Facey, Wolf Mojica, said his first impression of Facey was that he was a go-getter, a man of action. “I met Jerry through a mutual friend when they joined a group of people who were sailing up to Pagan,” said Mojica. “We hashed together, worked on Tagaman and XTERRA together. But the most memorable time we had was during the Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa and the all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinners.”

Mojica and Facey also participated in a delegation that went to Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1995. “Jerry was an integral part of the CNMI Red Cross. He was an invaluable part of Tagaman and XTERRA as logistical support. And he did that out of the goodness of his heart. He was a true friend and a wonderful human being,” said Mojica.

Facey is survived by his wife Irene, and children John Paul, Jerene and Jeanette.

to attach a mechanic’s lien to IPI’s interests in the real property on the project. A mechanic’s lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

In the other case, U.S.A. Fanter is suing IPI for issuing statements published in two newspapers that allegedly contained libelous statements. U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay an unspecified amount of damages. U.S.A. Fanter also asked the court to require IPI to make a public retraction of the statements. IPI allegedly transmitted its libelous statements to *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* on Dec. 19, 2019 and Dec. 20, 2019, respectively. IPI has denied that the statements were libelous.

IPI also hired former Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback as its counsel in other lawsuits filed against the company. Veteran lawyer Michael W. Dotts is the new general counsel for IPI.

ATALIG

From Page 1

they are receiving. There is also a local tax, but we’re not taking that out at the point of receiving your funds.”

According to Atalig, every recipient will receive a Form 1099-G by Jan. 30, 2021, in time for the filing of taxes for 2020. The form will show the total benefits paid, and any federal or territory income taxes withheld in the previous calendar year.

“Those will come into effect, and depending on the amount you received, they are taxable. And so, I just want [everyone] to be aware of that. Just like any benefit or any income you receive, they are taxable one way or the other, whether it’s the federal government or through local tax,” he added.

Also, as stated in the PUA Benefits Rights Information Handbook issued by the CNMI Department of Labor, as no adjustments are made for repayments of overpaid benefits, recipients would need to keep receipts of the repayment for their tax returns.

Any change in address needs to be submitted to CNMI Labor to receive

Form 1099-G.

Child tax

The Department of Finance has already submitted its request to the Internal Revenue Service for the first batch of child tax.

“We hope to have that out the next week or two, ahead of our schedule,” Atalig said.

“We’re giving ourselves 30 days after the deadline of July 15. However, we already have a good amount that has been entered into the system. So, instead of just keeping that in waiting, I decided to try to get that out to our people who really, really need it, and expect to have our first batch in a week or two,” he added.

As for PUA, child support can be deducted from it. The Department of Labor handbook states that the CNMI Office of the Attorney General enforces court-ordered child support obligations and can intercept PUA and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits.

“The amount deducted is based on an order or orders for income withholding. The deductions may be limited to the maximum allowable under federal law,” Atalig added.

Group collects over 1,000 lbs of trash

A group that calls itself Saipancleanup was able to collect over 1,000 lbs of trash during several weeks of picking up trash in different sites on the island.

Logan Mister, who coordinates the cleanups, said he was prompted to spearhead the cleanups after he, his brother, and friends found large amounts of trash whenever they're exploring the pocket beaches on Saipan. "We were amazed by the huge amount of trash everywhere. We also saw a deceased juvenile shark and it was a sad sight to see," he said.

The group did a cleanup last week Wednesday and was fo-

cused on the pocket beaches in Dandan, but also visited several sites where illegal dumping was taking place. Mister said they collected around 20 bags of trash in all.

"We would definitely do more, but we have to carry all the trash to the road which is about a half-mile hike away," he said.

Saipancleanup recently had more cleanups and averaged around 10 volunteers or more helping out.

One of the volunteers, Grace Choi, said, "When I see the debris, it makes me think about how much plastic I use throughout my day-to-day life. I never really thought



A group of young volunteers that calls itself Saipancleanup was able to collect over 1,000 lbs of trash during several weeks of picking up trash in different sites on the island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



twice about plastic products, but now all I can think about is what I can do to reduce the amount of plastic I use every day. Avoid single-use plastics

as much as possible while learning more about what harms or helps our environment," she said.

"The ocean has given us

so many resources and joy. It is our duty to keep it clean and free from trash. Please love our island, this paradise, by being responsible for your

own trash," said another volunteer, Louisa Han.

"I hope to educate the island that our marine environment is our future and we need to take care of the gem that we are given. I want there to be a reef for the future generations to enjoy," said Mister.

He thanked all volunteers for their time and help, as well as Micronesia Island Nature Alliance and Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality for giving the group the necessary supplies.

For any updates on cleanups or if you would love to join, visit their Instagram page @saipancleanup. (*Chevy Alipio*)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB20-COTA/FTA-088

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF EIGHT (8)
MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR 2020 OR NEWER
ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY AT MS. ALFREDA P. CAMACHO VIA EMAIL ONLY TO alfreda.camacho@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 04:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 23, 2020.** ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL POTENTIAL BIDDERS. **QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP20-DOC/SBDC-089

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"2020-2021 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR
A MARKETING COORDINATOR FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CNMI SMALL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MS. NICOLE BABAUTA OR MS. LORIE PANGELINAN AT cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JULY 23, 2020.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARK O. RABULIMAN
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP20-DOC/SBDC-090 (A-C)

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"2020-2021 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR
BUSINESS ADVISORS FOR A.) SAIPAN, B.)
TINIAN, AND C.) ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE, CNMI SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MS. NICOLE BABAUTA OR MS. LORIE PANGELINAN AT cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JULY 29, 2020.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARK O. RABULIMAN
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

2020 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

JKPL launches Early Literacy and Children's Story Hour



More than 70 children and their parents or guardians have participated and/or registered for the 2020 Summer Reading Program's Story Hour classes, which the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library launched last Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

The children and their parents or guardians enjoyed listening and watching children's librarian/certified teacher Rosalinda Ulloa and Bookmobile supervisor/certified teacher Leoralynn S. Terlaje present Early Literacy and Children's Story

Hour class.

Moreover, thanks to the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the Story Hour class also featured special guests—Cookie Monster, Elmo, and Cat in the Hat—who made surprise appearances throughout the week.

Families were ecstatic for the Story Hour class which includes a Motherhead/Fatheread CNMI Learning Package to Go to take home and create stories and bonding experiences with their children.

In the Early Literacy



Story Hour and Children's Story Hour class, which is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Motherhead/Fatheread CNMI, certified teachers of the Motherhead/Fatheread CNMI facilitate the classes, which are a combination of two literacy programs: Motherhead/Fatheread CNMI's Story Exploring Class and JKPL's Read Aloud. Classes are offered daily for the community.

The Early Literacy and Children's Story Hour utilizes Motherhead/Fatheread CNMI's Story Exploring model—designed for children from birth through age 11—which uses multicultural award-winning children's books to build reading and critical thinking skills. This curriculum uses targeted reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities to foster problem solving, increase comprehension, and nurture a love of books. Children learn vocabulary and how to interpret stories using props, games, songs, and other activities to make reading fun.

To join the classes, a valid JKPL card is required. Limited seats are available. First registered, first served. Interested participants are invited to contact the library by appointment only at (670) 235-7315/7322/7323 (READ) during hours of operation: Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9:30am to 3:30pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 9:30am to 11:30am. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PAROLE

P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govhop@pticom.com



TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that a **Preliminary Hearing** is scheduled for **July 24, 2020 (Friday)**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.**, at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Building 1216, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950, The following individual (s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner.

I. Parolee
1. Laraad Ramangmou Cr.Cs. No: 17-0076B / 16-0021D / 15-0004D BOP No: 19-010

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/
Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman

July 13, 2020
Date

PETER & BEVERLY CAMACHO
P.O. Box 5622 CHR
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 788-0439 /
(670) 285-9848

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of
the Adoption Of:

J.V.L.I.C.
Minor Child

By:
PETER &
BEVERLY
CAMACHO
Petitioner(s)

FCD-AD-
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 20-0190

NOTICE OF
HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing August 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom Marianas Business Plaza, before the Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
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P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
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E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com
Attorney for: Petitioner Eiji Taniguchi

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
RYUZO YAMADA,
Deceased.

PROBATE CASE NO. 20-0225-CV
NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION TO PROBATE and
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020
Time: 10:00 am
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS
OF THE LATE RYUZO YAMADA OR OF HIS ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Eiji Taniguchi, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of RYUZO YAMADA, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Estate of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 10:00 am, at Supreme, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 15 July 2020.

By: /s/ CLERK OF COURT

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
Saipan, MP 96950
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Attorney for: Petitioner Eiji Taniguchi

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
HIROSHI
YAMADA,
Deceased.

PROBATE CASE NO. 20-0226-CV
NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION TO PROBATE and
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020
Time: 10:00 am
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE
HIROSHI YAMADA OR OF HIS ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Eiji Taniguchi, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of HIROSHI YAMADA, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Estate of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 10:00 am, at Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 15 July 2020.

By: /s/ CLERK OF COURT

Pacific Ocean Division to roll out a new hiring plan amid pandemic

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii—After completing an aggressive yearlong recruitment campaign, which kicked off July 1, 2019, and included locations in Alaska, Hawaii, Korea and Japan, the Pacific Ocean Division is setting its sights on a new hiring strategy. “We are very privileged in that last year’s campaign was mostly rolled out all online. We received over 550 résumés, which were added to a recruitment database and resulted in several hires,” said Jimmy Lam, POD’s human capital manager. “Now that COVID-19 has shifted the recruitment environment, we find our organization is already postured for online engagement. POD is looking to build upon the momentum gained and is exploring the possibility of hosting virtual engagements later this year for prospective employees.”

Recruiting remains a top priority as POD leans forward to assist federal, state and partner agencies in the fight against COVID-19. Earlier this year, the organization, along with the greater U.S. Army Corps of Engineers enterprise, was heavily focused on conducting assessments of existing structures for potential conversion into alternate care facilities. The enterprise continues to track infection trends and

providing input, recommendations and support, in addition to bringing ongoing engineer-related projects to completion in support of the nation and partners.

“We’re committed to delivering results to the American people and our partners throughout the region who depend upon our expertise during COVID-19 and beyond. One of the primary ways we carry out this sacred obligation is by recruiting the top talent in their fields to join our team,” said Col. Kirk Gibbs, Pacific Ocean Division commander. Lam said POD has found success in reaching highly qualified candidates via social media by sharing POD’s story online through a variety of multimedia content and anticipates continuing to connect through the organization’s Facebook page.

In addition to continuing recruitment efforts, POD is focused on developing and investing in their dynamic workforce. POD commanding officer Col. Kirk Gibbs said, “I am deeply passionate about building the next generation of leaders at the Pacific Ocean Division as our most valuable resource. People are our No. 1 priority, and when we focus on growing the capabilities of our workforce,

the benefits of this approach is exponential: Employees are postured for maximum success, and our partners, stakeholders and community members get the best and brightest experts the field has to offer. That’s a win-win,” said Gibbs.

According to program leads, POD anticipates finalizing plans for their new recruitment initiative later this year.

The POD has a workforce of over 1,600 military, civilian and local national team members. The POD mission includes engineering design, construction and real estate management for the Army in Hawaii, Army and Air Force in Alaska, and for all Department of Defense Services and Agencies in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. The division also administers the USCOE’s federal water resource development program and waters and wetlands regulatory programs in Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI. The POD program includes the multi-year \$10.7 billion Korea Transformation Program and the \$15.8 billion U.S. Japan Defense Policy Review Initiative. *(Ana Allen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Municipality of Saipan
P.O. Box 501457 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-6208 Fax: (670) 234-1190

INVITATION TO BID (ITB NO. 20-001)

Pursuant to 10 CMC §§ 30401 – 30415, the Saipan Bingo Act of 2017, the Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor, Municipality of Saipan, is issuing this Notice of Invitation to Bid for the operation of a sole bingo license in the Municipality of Saipan. The term of the sole bingo license shall be for a period of five years from the date it is issued. 10 CMC § 30406 (a). No person, company, sole proprietor, joint venture, or any type of organization, including non-profit and for profit, shall submit more than one bid.

The minimum bid for the sole bingo license shall be United States Dollars \$10,000.00. 10 CMC § 30409 (e). The successful bidder must pay the bid amount no later than twenty-four hours following bid award. 10 CMC § 30409 (e).

A non-refundable bid fee of USD\$200.00 must accompany each bid. 10 CMC § 30409 (c). Bids received without the non-refundable bid fee shall be rejected and shall not be considered. The bid fee must be in the form of United States Currency or Bank Cashier’s Check. Checks must be made payable to the “Commonwealth Treasury” and have the notation “For Deposit to Business Unit 3064A, Office of the Mayor of Saipan.” Personal or business checks will not be accepted.

A bid must be submitted on a Bid Application Form. A Bid Application Form is available at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, in the CTC Building, Suite A, 2799 Teer Drive, Oleai, Saipan. Interested bidders may pick up a form during regular government working hours, i.e., 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday, except on government holidays. Any bid submitted on a form other than that provided by the Office of the Mayor of Saipan will be rejected and not considered.

A bid must be sealed and submitted to the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at the above-stated address, no later than 10:00 a.m. on August 11, 2020. No bids will be accepted after 10:00 a.m. on August 11, 2020. All bids will be publicly opened and announced at 10:00 a.m. on August 12, 2020, at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, at the above-stated physical address. All dates and time indicated on this ITB are ChST.

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan reserves the right to reject any and all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Municipality of Saipan.

A bidder must refer to Saipan Bingo Act of 2017, codified at 10 CMC §§ 30401 – 30415, for requirements to be considered a qualified or eligible bidder. A bidder must include on a separate sheet/s a description of its company and documentary proof in support of the requirements as expressly set forth in the local law. A bidder is encouraged to read the Saipan Bingo Act of 2017 before submitting a bid to ensure bidder meets the requirements of eligibility and other requirements as set out in the local law.

For information, please visit the Office of the Mayor of Saipan or call (670) 234-6208 during regular government working hours, i.e., 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday, except on government holidays. Or email at saipanmayor@mos.gov.mp.

/s/David M. Apatang
Mayor, Municipality of Saipan



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20-034

Opening Date: March 18, 2020
Closing Date: Until Filled

Safety Officer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee. The Safety Officer complies with all occupational health and safety guidelines and ensures that Site Safety and Health Plan is prepared and implemented. Inspect work sites and review working conditions. Responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures to assure personnel safety. Test workplaces for environmental hazards, such as exposure to radiation, chemical or biological hazards, or excessive noise. Verify availability or monitor use of safety equipment, such as hearing protection or respirators. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Update procedures and policies for new regulations or local ordinances. Supply, operate, or maintain personal protective equipment, ensure all personnel follow all personal safety precautions. Maintain all required environmental records and documentation. Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues/incidents and appropriate corrective actions. Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents. Performs safety related duties after hours, on weekends, and on holidays as needed. Stand-by on-call designation on alternating basis. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S): Administration/Safety Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: 40,084.00 to \$ 54,113.00 Per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal
POSITION(S): One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, Business or directly related field and 2 years of directly related experience; or High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and 6 years of directly related experience. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Valid U.S. Driver’s License with appropriate class. Position may require the following specialized licenses and certifications: Emergency Responder Certification, Hazmat and OSHA Certifications. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131



**Northern Marianas
Humanities Council**
Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement

PROGRAM OFFICER Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic team player for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer works creatively to develop and implement a variety of humanities programs and events and manages the Council’s Community Grants program. A detailed description of the Program Officer’s duties and responsibilities may be obtained from the Council’s office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council’s website at www.nmhccouncil.org.

Applicants for this position are expected to demonstrate: (1) cultural competencies and inclusiveness in communications and program implementation; (2) ability to prioritize and undertake multiple, diverse activities and programs; (3) flexibility and willingness to respond to stakeholders and special assignments to meet project goals and organizational needs; (4) strong analytic skills for identifying issues and solutions; (5) ability to lead a team and work in a collaborative environment; (6) exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail; and (7) strong writing and communication skills.

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree, preferably in the humanities; and relevant experience in program and event planning, assessment and evaluation, and grants management. The salary range is from \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council’s Personnel Policy Manual and include vacation leave, sick leave, personal days, health insurance and IRA contributions.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1) a Letter of Interest; (2) a detailed resume; (3) a recent writing sample (500-800 words; preferably on a humanities topic); (4) three Letters of Recommendations; and (5) names and addresses of three references to Leo Pangelinan, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, PO Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Hey, Congress, this time bail out child care providers

Maybe, just maybe, Congress is finally getting serious about helping parents get back to work.

There's growing bipartisan support among lawmakers for a major relief package that could help child care providers meet the enormous coronavirus-related challenges that have forced some centers to suspend operations and left others barely hanging on. The ongoing pandemic could cause roughly 40% of child care facilities to close permanently, according to a survey of 5,000 providers. If they go down, so will the prospects of working parents and the economy—parents with minor children make up almost one-third of the nation's workforce.

The fundamental problem is that in the current environment, child care providers lose money whenever they open their doors. To help minimize exposure and contain outbreaks, facilities are limited to 10 kids per classroom no matter the age, down from 24 in classrooms with older children. Typically, providers need to have 80% of their seats filled to make a profit, but they're required now to operate at 40% to 60% capacity.

They still need teachers to oversee those smaller classes. And they need aides to escort children into their facilities because parents are required to drop kids off outside.

Then there are the added expenses to make child care centers safer, including masks, face shields, gloves, thermometers and cleaning supplies. And they need more toys because kids can't share them anymore. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended sanitizing toys immediately after a child puts it in his or her mouth, or sneezes or coughs on it. The cleaning regimen is so intense, operators may need extra employees just to keep up.

And they can't cut corners on safety measures. While children may be less likely than their parents and teachers to develop severe illness from the coronavirus, they can still be infected and transmit the virus to other people. Texas repealed its emergency safety rules for child care providers in mid-June, but reinstated the measures (including daily temperature checks of staff and children) after a surge in COVID-19 cases connected to child care facilities.

Unlike K-12 public education, child care in the U.S. is largely a private industry, with operators that rely on fees paid by customers to stay afloat. If parents aren't working or don't feel comfortable sending their children back to day care, then these facilities can't open or stay open.

In Los Angeles County, about 65% of child care centers are closed. These tend to be the larger providers with multiple classrooms and teachers, and they are struggling to make the economics work with the coronavirus guidelines and smaller classes.

At the Wishing Well Academic Preschool in the San Fernando Valley, Delynn Schneider said her family-owned day

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Russia can't afford to trip up in the vaccine race

Moscow researchers say one of the country's potential coronavirus vaccines has been proven safe in small-scale human trials, and is ready for wider tests. It should be a modest win for a country that has sought for years to restore its Soviet-era reputation for cutting-edge science, and for President Vladimir Putin.

Yet on Thursday, Britain, the U.S. and Canada accused Russia of hacking international research centers that are trying to develop a vaccine. The Kremlin denies any involvement, while the head of the country's sovereign wealth fund called the allegations an attempt to tarnish the Russian research effort. It's still an accusation that jeopardizes a hoped-for inoculation boost for prestige. Old-school vaccine diplomacy might help. Even in the depths of the Cold War, Soviet and U.S. doctors collaborated to battle polio, and later smallpox.

Russia is also not the only nation desperate to arrive at a solution fast and, preferably, first. Yet the pressure there is acute. Putin needs to lift his flagging popularity, despite a plebiscite that this month overwhelmingly approved constitutional changes that could keep him in power until 2036. The necessity has only increased with mass protests in the city of Khabarovsk in southeast Russia, after the arrest of the local governor two weeks ago.

The COVID-19 outbreak has been intense in Russia, which has the fourth-highest number of cases globally. Mortality rates have been remarkably low, but new cases are still coming in at a rate of well over 6,000 a day. The economy has taken a hit. Yet the vaccine push is just as much about winning back a status tarnished by years of underinvestment, a dramatic brain drain, and allegations last year of plagiarism and other unethical practices that prompted hundreds of academic articles to be retracted.

Even before coronavirus, innovation and science were pillars of the \$400 billion development plan Putin hopes will form his legacy. Unfortunately, time pressure and flag-waving don't always produce the best results.

For now, what we know of Russia's vaccine effort is encouraging. Sechenov University is testing a vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow, and preparing to discharge its last volunteers after the initial phase of the trial. It tracked an immune response and found the prototype to be safe. The military, which conducted a parallel trial, has made similar comments, and released its own volunteers.

Russia is not as far along as AstraZeneca Plc and the University of Oxford or Chinese researchers, but it has over a dozen promising vaccine candidates, and Gamaleya's is among the front-runners, along with prototypes developed by the Vector

By **CLARA FERREIRA MARQUES**

Bloomberg Opinion

Clara Ferreira Marques is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering commodities and environmental, social and governance issues. Previously, she was an associate editor for Reuters Breakingviews, and editor and correspondent for Reuters in Singapore, India, the U.K., Italy and Russia.



Institute in Siberia, formerly the center of the Soviet biological weapons research.

There is still plenty we won't know, though. Data from the first phase of the Gamaleya trial is not yet public and more testing will be required. The third and final phase, which tests the vaccine's actual effectiveness with a larger cohort, would normally take six months to a year. It isn't even clear whether Russia, no longer a major vaccine exporter, can manufacture enough.

Yet this hasn't tempered enthusiasm in state-run media or acts of bravura such as researchers at Gamaleya who voluntarily injected themselves with the untested prototype. Practices such as state-owned Sberbank PJSC recruiting volunteers for the Gamaleya trial among its own employees by appealing to their patriotism, are no less worrying. Or shortcuts elsewhere, as with a vague Moscow study that encouraged doctors to test the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine. The hacking allegations make it all worse.

If Russia is to reap the diplomatic and political benefits of a home-grown vaccine, it needs such a victory to be credible, at home and abroad. Following international norms and collaborating would be a start. Indeed, Putin may have no choice—large-scale trials may have to be carried out in countries where the infection rate is higher.

It still won't come naturally to a nationalist Putin administration that has long struggled to reconcile aspirations for scientific glory with a determination to tighten control. The Kremlin has sought to oversee contacts with foreign researchers and a number of academics with overseas links have been accused of treason. Other governments will now be extra wary too.

Yet history suggests it can be done successfully, with the United States and others. Peter Hotez of the Baylor College of

See **RUSSIA** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

My first reaction when I heard Los Angeles schools won't be open this fall? Tears. Lots of them

I'll admit, I cried a bit when I heard that Los Angeles Unified School District students won't be returning to their campuses next month. Instead, students will start the new school year they way the ended the last one—online and at home.

Like many parents, I've anxiously watched the calendar and the COVID-19 case numbers. In April, as California took its early victory lap for flattening the curve, I'd hoped my two kids could return to school full time in the fall. In June, as cases began to rise with reopening, I figured they'd have a couple days a week in the classroom and a couple days a week of distance learning.

Now, as coronavirus diagnoses and hospitalizations surge in LA County and the state starts to close again, it's clear that most schools don't have what they need to safely reopen their campuses. And so here we are again, back in home school.

I get it. There are too many risks to reopening all schools right now. Public schools do not have enough money, personnel and technical assistance to do regular testing and contact tracing or to redesign campuses to accommodate social distancing. Reopening schools too soon and without good safety protocols puts far too many people at risk, from teachers and school staff to children and their parents.

RUSSIA*From Page 8*

Medicine, who served as science envoy under U.S. President Barack Obama and has written extensively on the issue, points particularly to the cooperation between U.S. doctor Albert Sabin and Soviet virologist Mikhail Chumakov on the oral polio vaccine in the late 1950s. Relations then had thawed a little after the death of Josef Stalin, but they were still tense and competitive: Sputnik was launched in 1957. Both sides wanted to steal technological secrets.

Even so a few years later, there was collaboration again when Soviet scientists pioneered a freeze-drying technique for the smallpox vaccine. Unfortunately today the environment may be too toxic.

CONGRESS*From Page 8*

care center dropped from 80 kids to 12 at the beginning of the pandemic. She had to lay off almost her entire teaching staff. She was able to stay open only with the help of a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan and the subsidies the state offered for low-income enrollees, even if the children stayed home.

Now she's up to 50 students, but the future is still uncertain as the subsidies expire. "It took us 17 years to build this program," Schneider said.

The need for child care is only going to grow as more businesses call their employees back to work. Plus, more K-12 school districts are starting the new year online—meaning parents won't have that vital source of child care. Notably, many campuses had also provided after-school programs that could watch kids until 6 p.m.

Parents—and their employers—need child care, and providers need government help to stay open and serve their mission. Yet so far, Congress and the Trump administration haven't done nearly enough to help. The airlines got a \$25-billion bailout. Child care got \$3.5 billion.

But at least some lawmakers are getting the message. Nearly 100 House Democrats have co-sponsored the Child Care Is Essential Act, which would provide \$50 billion for child care providers during and after the pandemic. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) has called for aid for child care facilities in the next pandemic relief bill, and two Republican senators, Joni Ernst of Iowa and Kelly Loeffler of Georgia, have proposed a \$25-billion fund.

It's a hopeful sign. Child care is too often an afterthought for the nation's political leaders. But for families, safe and high-quality child care is truly essential.

Still, the prospect of another few months, an additional semester or, God forbid, a full year of studying from home is enough to make many parents, and their kids, burst into tears.

Distance learning is a poor substitute for being in a classroom with an engaging teacher and fellow students. During the first season of distance learning last spring, after arguing with my third grader over his refusal to finish his work, he sobbed, "I hate home school. It's all the boring parts of school and none of the fun parts."

He was right. Sitting at home, staring at a screen, watching glitchy videos and trying to have a Zoom conversation is a dismal experience compared with the interactions and experiences that kids get at school and in the classroom. There are no games at recess. No lunch with their buddies. No field trips. Distance learning can easily suck the joy right out of learning.

And it's no picnic for parents either. Working parents are expected either to find child care (good luck with that!) or, if they're fortunate enough to work from home, to balance doing their job and supervising their kids' lessons. (Also, good luck!) For so many parents, the schools are their child-care providers. Moms and dads can drop their kids before the first bell, and many campuses have after-school programs that run until 6 p.m. or later. That support system is gone, and yet somehow parents are expected to keep on working as if nothing has changed.

And these are just inconveniences compared with the very real concern that many children will face long-term consequences from missing so much time in school. Early research suggests that kids made little to no progress in their studies after the school closures. Affluent students were the most likely to have made significant gains in learning, low-income students the least. The expectation was that kids would make up for lost learning in the new school year, but how will that happen if students are stuck

Firefighting foam is making us sick

In my role as an attorney for a law firm that handles personal injury cases related to toxic environmental exposures, I see the problem caused by polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, firsthand.

The majority of my clients are former firefighters who have been diagnosed with kidney or testicular cancer as a consequence of long-term exposure to these chemicals through the use of firefighter foam.

None of them were informed about the potential health risks associated with the use of these chemicals, which they regularly came in contact with during training exercises and emergencies.

The foam that is causing these injuries was developed in the 1960s by the U.S. Navy and the 3M company; it was originally meant to contain fuel fires on Navy vessels. Soon, the foam was introduced as part of firefighter's standard equipment at military bases and airports.

But, as it turned out, a product meant to help keep people safe is actually harming them.

The product, known as aqueous film forming foam, contains PFAS, chemicals that have been proven to be extremely dangerous to the environment and to human health.

PFAS have been nicknamed "forever chemicals" because they are so resistant to environmental degradation. They are also soluble in water, which allows them to travel great distances. If they enter the human body, they tend to accumulate and are difficult to eliminate.

The problem is particularly severe in the United States, where high concentrations of PFAS have been found in groundwater. Several epidemiological studies have linked exposure to these chemicals to a variety of health issues including thyroid diseases, asthma, pancreatic and liver tumors, diabetes, a decrease in immune function and vaccine response as well as cancers affecting primarily the kidneys and testicles.

In 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report suggesting these chemicals could be even more dangerous than previously believed. It recommended that the safety limit for these chemicals should be 10 times less than

By KERRY CAVANAUGH*Los Angeles Times*

Kerry Cavanaugh is an editorial writer for the Los Angeles Times.

taking online classes at home again?

Perhaps the most frustrating piece of the continued closure is that we've had four months to plan and prepare for the return to schools, and what happened? Was that time squandered? It feels as though the Gov. Gavin Newsom and leaders throughout the state have dedicated far more energy in reopening restaurants, bars and tattoo parlors than in figuring out how to safely educate the next generation. Schools are essential but they've been treated like optional services.

And then there's President Donald Trump, who has pushed schools to fully reopen, never mind the rising coronavirus cases. The federal government could do so much more to help districts make their campuses safer for in-person learning. Why isn't Congress and the Trump administration pouring money into the schools? They could make it possible for schools to perform regular testing and contact tracing. More dollars could pay for more staff, trailers and portable classrooms so schools could educate small groups of students, which would be safer.

Money would help, but it won't solve everything. People need to take the pandemic seriously again and change their behavior to slow the spread of COVID-19. We can't keep shutting down the economy and we can't keep the schools closed until there is a vaccine.

By GREGORY A. CADE*Tribune News Service*

Gregory A. Cade is the main attorney at Environmental Litigation Group P.C., where he represents victims of occupational PFAS exposure. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

the level—70 parts per trillion—that the federal Environmental Protection Agency has been advising.

This toxic exposure could potentially harm millions of Americans, especially firefighters and those living near military facilities where the foam is used extensively in training exercises. While the EPA has issued a health advisory and steps are being taken to replace the old foam with a less toxic alternative and impose new regulations on the manufacture and use of these chemicals, it is not enough.

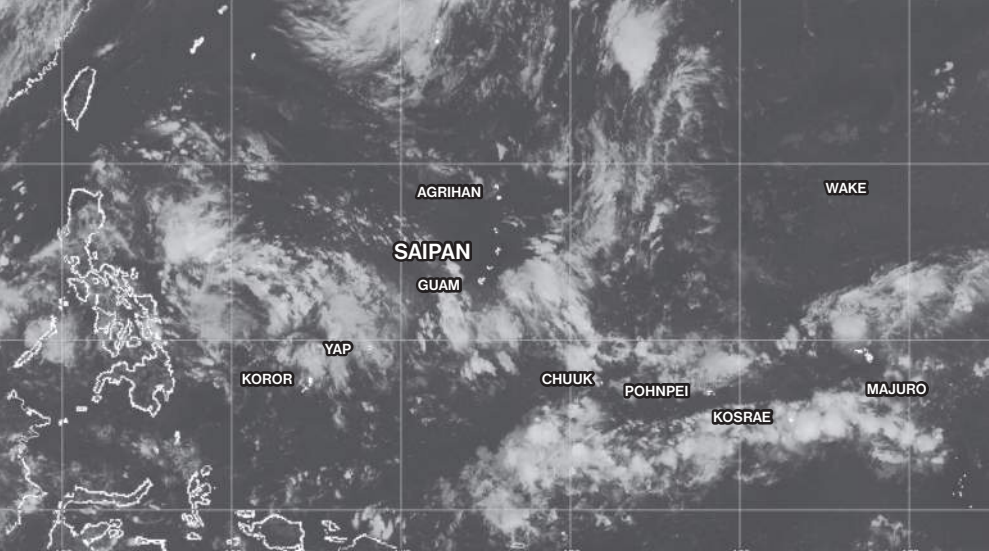
According to federal authorities, there are at least 4,000 PFAS that either are or have been on the market, and new ones are constantly being made in order to replace the old ones. Whether or not these other types can be as harmful as those currently in use is unclear.

The companies that produce PFAS, including 3M and DuPont, are still aggressively fighting allegations that they knew about the health risks associated with exposure to these chemicals for decades. They have already settled class action lawsuits in Alabama and Minnesota worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and could stand to lose as much as \$40 billion more.

Through all of this, Americans are still getting ill, firefighters are still getting cancer, and water systems throughout the country are still highly contaminated. And while we're waiting for solutions to clean up the current mess, we have to wonder how bad the new replacement chemicals are going to be.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
89°	78°	90°	79°	90°	79°	88°	77°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:15 AM, MONDAY, JULY 21, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are evident on the latest satellite imagery to the northeast and southeast of the islands. Buoys show seas between 3 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:05 AM	7:26 PM	-
Wednesday	7:06 AM	8:17 PM	-
Thursday	8:06 AM	9:06 PM	-
Friday	9:05 AM	9:51 PM	-
Saturday	10:03 AM	10:35 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	55° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 73°	
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 55°	
Busan	Showers	79° / 72°	
Rome	Sunny	93° / 68°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 56°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 72°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	96° / 78°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:04 AM	LOW TIDE	1.43	
6:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.08	
2:20 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.24	
9:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.09	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 117	7:30AM	8:10AM	1,4,6	UA 174	5:50AM	6:30AM	1,4,6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

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Business

LATTE STONE & SLOW HOUSE:

Your northern *pit stop*

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If you fancy going on a road trip up north, why not drop by Latte Stone & Slow House and treat yourself to some hotdogs and a cold beverage before proceeding to Marpi?

Owner Kevin Cho said he reopened Latte Stone & Slow House last July 10 after being closed since March. To celebrate their return to business, the restaurant is offering 20%-30% off on its rice bowl offerings.



Latte Stone & Slow House's hotdogs are its bestsellers.

"Because of COVID-19 a lot of people lost work and [have] no income. That's why we decided to do a special promotion until future notice," he said.

For instance, japchae rice bowl that used to cost \$8 is now only \$5.99, while the \$11 sweet & sour pork rice bowl is now just \$8.99. All rice bowl meals come with free bottled water.

For dine-in, deliveries, and takeout call 789-5777.

Latte Stone & Slow House's salads are also discounted, with smoked salmon and avocado now just \$8, while iced coffee and coconut smoothies are now only \$2.50 and \$4.50, respectively.

Cho said their smoothies have been a hit prior to their closure and hopes that the trend continues as they reopen. "The coconut cof-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Latte Stone & Slow House in San Roque is open seven days a week from 11am to 6pm.



Latte Stone & Slow House's bulgogi rice bowl.

fee smoothie is our signature drink. We also created other flavors for those who don't like coffee. We have chocolate coconut smoothie, strawberry coconut smoothie, and matcha coconut smoothie."

Other bestsellers at the San Roque restaurant are their hotdogs (beef bulgogi, sausage chili, sausage corn cheese)

and their bulgogi and Spam egg mayo rice bowls.

When asked why he decided to call the restaurant Latte Stone & Slow House, Cho said he chose "latte stone" because it's a Chamorro identity, while "slow house" depicts the islands' relaxed laidback lifestyle.

"Latte stone is for local people and slow house means please enjoy the slow life for our Korean tourists be-

cause in Korea life is always busy," he said.

Cho said their customer base used to be made up of mostly tourists, so COVID-19 effectively wiped out 99% of their clientele. He said it's high time that they focus on the local market.

There aren't many restaurants in the north area of Saipan and Cho hopes that that will make their place a

notable feature in that area of the island. Also, despite being new to the restaurant scene, Cho is optimistic. "...Although our restaurant has not been open for a long time, we will overcome this situation and cope wisely."

Latte Stone & Slow House is open seven days a week from 11am to 6pm. For dine-in, deliveries, and takeout call 789-5777.



Latte Stone & Slow House's chocolate coconut smoothie, strawberry coconut smoothie, and matcha coconut smoothie.

GOP leaders, Trump to discuss virus aid as crisis deepens

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top Republicans in Congress were expecting to meet Monday with President Donald Trump on the next COVID-19 aid package as the administration panned more virus testing money and interjected other priorities that could complicate quick passage.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was prepared to roll out the \$1 trillion package in a matter of days. But divisions between the Senate GOP majority and the White House posed fresh challenges. Congress was returning to session this week as the coronavirus crisis many had hoped would have improved by now only worsened—and just as ear-

lier federal emergency relief was expiring.

Trump insisted again Sunday that the virus would "disappear," but the president's view did not at all match projections from the leading health professionals straining to halt the U.S.'s alarming caseloads and death toll.

McConnell and House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy were set to meet with Trump and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin "to fine-tune" the legislation, acting chief of staff Mark Meadows said on Fox News.

The package from McConnell had been quietly crafted behind closed doors for weeks and was expected to include \$75 billion to help schools re-

open, reduced unemployment benefits alongside a fresh round of direct \$1,200 cash payments to Americans, and a sweeping five-year liability shield against coronavirus lawsuits.

But as the White House weighed in, the administration was panning some \$25 billion in proposed new funds for testing and tracing, said one Republican familiar with the discussions. The administration's objections were first reported by The Washington Post.

Trump was also reviving his push for a payroll tax break, which was being seriously considered, said another Republican. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks.

Report: Disney cuts back on Facebook, Instagram ads

MENLO PARK, California (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. has "dramatically" slashed its advertising budget on Facebook and Facebook-owned Instagram, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

It's the latest setback for the social network, which is facing a growing advertising boycott over its policies and actions on hate speech on its platforms. The Journal, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter, said the time frame for Disney's pullback was not clear.

Disney was Facebook's biggest U.S. advertiser for the first six months of 2020, ac-

cording to research firm Pathmatics Inc. Disney joins hundreds of other companies that have paused spending on the service. The report did not say whether Disney is officially joining the ad boycott. Some companies, such as Starbucks, are pulling back social media advertising due to hate speech and other concerns but have not officially joined the "Stop Hate for Profit" campaign.

Representatives for Disney did not immediately respond to a Sunday message seeking comment.

The economic fallout from the pandemic has also cut into companies' advertis-

ing budgets.

Facebook said it does not comment on individual advertisers. The company said in an emailed statement Sunday that it invests "billions of dollars each year to keep our community safe and continuously work with outside experts to review and update our policies."

"We know we have more work to do, and we'll continue to work with civil rights groups, (the Global Alliance for Responsible Media coalition), and other experts to develop even more tools, technology and policies to continue this fight," Facebook said.

Nation

Thousands to walk off job to protest racial inequality

NEW YORK (AP)—Organizers of a national workers strike say tens of thousands are set to walk off the job Monday in more than two dozen U.S. cities to protest systemic racism and economic inequality that has only worsened during the coronavirus pandemic.

Dubbed the “Strike for Black Lives,” labor unions, along with social and racial justice organizations from New York City to Los Angeles, will participate in a range of planned actions. Where work stoppages are not possible for a full day, participants will either picket during a lunch break or observe moments of silence to honor Black lives lost to police violence, organizers said.

“We are ... building a country where Black lives matter in every aspect of society—including in the workplace,” said Ash-Lee Henderson, an organizer with the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of over 150 organizations that make up the Black Lives Matter movement.

“The Strike for Black Lives is a moment of reckoning for corporations that have long ignored the concerns of their Black workforce and denied them better working conditions, living wages and health-care,” said Henderson, who is also co-executive director of the Tennessee-based Highlander Research and Education Center.

Among the strikers will be essential workers: nursing home employees, janitors and delivery men and women. Fast food, ride-share and airport workers are also expected to



AP
Church parishioners sit apart at a prayer vigil for racial justice at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Sunday, July 19, 2020, in Seattle.

take part in planned events.

The strike continues an ongoing global reckoning on race and police brutality set off by the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died at the hands of Minneapolis police in late May. At noon in each U.S. time zone on Monday, workers are expected to take a knee for about eight minutes—the amount of time prosecutors say a white police officer held his knee on Floyd’s neck.

Strikers are demanding sweeping action by corporations and government to confront systemic racism and economic inequality that limits mobility and career ad-

vancement for many Black and Hispanic workers, who make up a disproportionate number of those earning less than a living wage.

Specifically, they are calling on corporate leaders and elected government officials to use executive and legislative power to guarantee people of all races can thrive. That demand includes raising wages and allowing workers to unionize to negotiate better health care, sick leave and child care support.

When the strike was announced on July 8, partnering unions included the Service Employees International Union, the International

Brotherhood of Teamsters, the American Federation of Teachers, United Farm Workers and the Fight for \$15 and a Union. Several more worker collectives have since joined, along with social and racial justice groups.

In Manhattan, essential workers will gather outside of the Trump International Hotel to demand the Senate and President Donald Trump pass and sign the HEROES Act. The House-passed legislation provides protective equipment, essential pay and extended unemployment benefits to workers who have not had the option of working from home during the

death in Minneapolis nearly two months.

Trump contends that a series of polls that show his popularity eroding and Biden holding an advantage are faulty. He believes Republican voters are underrepresented in such surveys.

“First of all, I’m not losing, because those are fake polls,” Trump said in the taped interview, which aired Sunday. “They were fake in 2016 and now they’re even more fake. The polls were much worse in 2016.”

Trump was frequently combative with Wallace in defending his administration’s response to the pandemic, weighing in on the Black Lives Matter movement and trying to portray Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, as lacking the mental prowess to serve as president.

Trump not ready to commit to election results if he loses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is refusing to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming White House election, recalling a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote, as he scoffs at polls showing him lagging behind Democrat Joe Biden. Trump says it’s too early to make such an ironclad guarantee.

“I have to see. Look ... I have to see,” Trump told moderator Chris Wallace during a wide-ranging interview on “Fox News Sunday.” “No, I’m not going to just say yes. I’m not going to say no, and I didn’t last time either.” The Biden campaign responded: “The American people will decide this election. And the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House.”

Trump also hammered the

Pentagon brass for favoring renaming bases that honor Confederate military leaders—a drive for change spurred by the national debate about race after George Floyd’s death. “I don’t care what the military says,” the commander in chief said.

The president described the nation’s top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, as a “a little bit of an alarmist” about the coronavirus pandemic, and Trump stuck to what he had said back in February—that the virus is “going to disappear.” On Fox, he said, “I’ll be right eventually.” The United States tops the global death toll list with over 140,000 and confirmed infections, with 3.7 million.

It is remarkable that a sitting president would express less than complete confidence in the American democracy’s electoral process. But for

Trump, it comes from his insurgent playbook of four years ago, when in the closing stages of his race against Hillary Clinton, he said he would not commit to honoring the election results if the Democrat won.

Pressed during an October 2016 debate about whether he would abide by the voters’ will, Trump responded that he would “keep you in suspense.” The president’s remarks to Fox are certain to fuel conversation on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers had already been airing concerns in private about a scenario in which Trump disputes the election results.

Trump has seen his presidential popularity erode over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and in the aftermath of nationwide protests centered on racial injustice that erupted after Floyd’s

Roger Stone calls Black radio host ‘Negro’ in interview show

Roger Stone, a political operative whose 40-month prison sentence was commuted this month by President Donald Trump, his longtime friend, called a Los Angeles-based Black radio host a “Negro” on the air during a contentious interview.

The exchange occurred on Saturday’s Mo’Kelly Show, whose host—Morris O’Kelly—grilled Stone on his conviction for lying to Congress, tampering with witnesses and obstructing the House investigation into whether Trump’s campaign colluded with Russia to win the 2016 election.

O’Kelly on his program’s website said “Stone could have reached for any pejorative, but unfortunately went there,” adding that “Stone offered an unfiltered, unvarnished one-sentence expression of how he saw the journalist interviewing him.”

O’Kelly characterized “Negro” as the “low-calorie version of the N-Word.”

Stone’s attorney on Sunday said he was unaware of the broadcast and had no immediate comment.

Stone was sentenced to 40 months in prison, but Trump commuted that sentence on July 10—just days before Stone was to report for detention.

As O’Kelly asserted that Stone’s commutation was because of his friendship

with Trump, Stone’s voice goes faint but can be heard uttering that he was “arguing with this Negro.”

O’Kelly then asks Stone to repeat the comment, but Stone goes momentarily silent.

At one time, “Negro” was common in the American vernacular to describe African Americans. By the late 1960s, however, the word was scorned by activists in favor of such descriptors as “Black.”

These days, the antiquated word is widely viewed as derogatory in most uses.

The first part of Stone’s statement was not entirely audible, but the radio program transcribed the complete sentence as, “I can’t believe I’m arguing with this Negro.”

O’Kelly persisted on having Stone respond.

“I’m sorry you’re arguing with whom? I thought we were just having a spirited conversation. What happened?” O’Kelly said. “You said something about ‘Negro.’”

Stone said he had not. “You’re out of your mind,” he said.

The interview then continued.

In a statement, Stone defended himself by saying that anyone familiar with him “knows I despise racism!”

Asia

Outbreak in northwest of China spreads to 2nd city

BEIJING (AP)—China's latest coronavirus outbreak has spread to a second city in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

One of the 17 new cases reported on Monday was in the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar, the regional government said on its official microblog. The remainder were in the regional capital of Urumqi, where all other cases have been reported since the outbreak that has now infected at least 47 people emerged earlier this month.

Authorities in Urumqi have tried to prevent the spread by closing off communities and imposing travel restrictions.

Xinjiang is a vast, thinly populated region of mountains and deserts and had seen little impact from the pandemic that emerged from the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year and was largely contained within China in March.

Another five new cases reported Monday by the National Health Commission were imported.

Beijing, meanwhile, has gone 14 days without a case of local transmission, and city authorities on Sunday said they were downgrading the emergency response level from two to three. The move is largely symbolic, with measures including mandatory social distancing, temperature checks and 14-day quarantines for passengers arriving from abroad remaining in place.

China also Monday reported 5,370 people had been arrested for pandemic-related crimes between January and June. More than 40% were charged with fraud, the state prosecutor's office announced on its official microblog. Another 15% were charged with obstruction of law enforcement, with others accused of pro-

China blasts dam to release floodwaters as death toll rises

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in central China blasted a dam Sunday to release surging waters behind it amid widespread flooding across the country that has claimed scores of lives.

State broadcaster CCTV reported the dam on the Chuhe River in Anhui province was destroyed with explosives early Sunday morning, after which the water level was expected to drop by 70 centimeters (more than 2 feet).

Water levels on many rivers, including the mighty Yangtze, have been unusually



A man wearing a face mask to protect against the new coronavirus opens his health code on his smartphone before entering a cafe at a shopping district in Beijing, Sunday, July 19, 2020.

ducing and selling fake and shoddy goods, creating public disturbances and transporting and selling endangered species.

China has strengthened protection for wild animals following the emergence of the virus, which may have originated in bats before jumping to humans via an intermediary species such as the anteater-like pangolin.

No specific figures were given for those accused of violating quarantine rules and travel restrictions, although there have been relatively few such cases reported in official media.

Although faulted for allowing the virus to spread from Wuhan, China's government has been credited with imposing rigid and sometimes draconian measures to contain the outbreak, and people have overwhelmingly complied with orders to wear masks, display certificates of good health and maintain social distancing.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Australia's hard-hit Victoria state reported 275 more COVID-19 cases on Monday, a third daily figure that was below last Friday's peak. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the impact of the lockdown on

high this year because of torrential rains.

Blasting dams and embankments to discharge water was an extreme response employed during China's worst floods in recent years in 1998, when more than 2,000 people died and almost 3 million homes were destroyed.

Last week, the gargantuan Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze opened three floodgates as the water level behind the massive dam rose more than 15 meters (50 feet) above flood level. Another flood

Australia's second-largest city Melbourne should become apparent Wednesday, which is two weeks after the six-week shutdown began. "It is a wicked enemy, it is unstable and until we bring some stability to this, I don't think we'll be able to talk about a trend," Andrews said. Victoria had conducted more than 1.3 million coronavirus tests among a population of 6.5 million, which represented one of the highest testing rates in the world, he said.

■ South Korea has reported its smallest daily jump in local COVID-19 transmissions in two months as health authorities express cautious optimism that the outbreak is being brought under control. South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday still reported 26 newly confirmed cases of the coronavirus, including 22 that were tied to international arrivals. Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip said the four local cases were the first below 10 since May 19. He continued to plead for vigilance, encouraging people to avoid crowded places or even stay at home during the summer holiday period.

crest is expected to arrive at the dam on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, soldiers and workers have been testing the strength of embankments and shoring them up with sandbags and rocks. On Saturday, firefighters and others finished filling in a 188-meter (620-foot) break on Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake, that had caused widespread flooding across 15 villages and agricultural fields in Jiangxi province. More than 14,000 people were evacuated.

World

Govts around the world eye tougher steps to fight virus

Signs of governments reassessing their coronavirus response were scattered around the world Sunday, with the mayor of Los Angeles saying the city was reopened too quickly, Ohio's governor warning his state is "going the wrong way," Hong Kong issuing tougher new rules on wearing face masks and Spain closing overcrowded beaches.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Los Angeles was "on the brink" of new widespread stay-at-home orders as Los Angeles County continued to see the state's largest increase in confirmed coronavirus cases. California reported on Saturday its fourth-highest daily total of newly confirmed coronavirus cases, with more than 9,000.

Appearing on CNN Sunday, Garcetti was asked about a Los Angeles Times editorial that criticized the rapid reopening of California, which was followed by a spike in new COVID-19

cases and hospitalizations.

"I do agree those things happened too quickly," Garcetti said, adding that the decisions were made at the state and county levels, not by city officials. But he also said people in general had become less vigilant about taking precautions to avoid transmission.

"It's not just what's open and closed," he said. "It's also about what we do individually."

Infections have been soaring in U.S. states including California, Florida, Texas and Arizona, with many blaming a haphazard, partisan approach to lifting lockdowns as well as the resistance of some Americans to wearing masks.

In Florida, where health officials reported nearly 12,500 new infections and nearly 90 additional deaths on Sunday, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio called for consistent, nonpartisan messaging.

"We've seen a lot of these things turned into sort of a partisan fight or a political

statement," he told South Florida television station, CBS4, on Sunday.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, like Rubio a Republican, said he would not rule out a statewide mandate on wearing masks, as infections in his state grew. He has already issued such orders in 19 counties accounting for nearly 60% of the state's population.

"We're going the wrong way. We're at a crucial time," DeWine said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Globally, the World Health Organization said that 259,848 new infections were reported Saturday, its highest one-day tally yet. India, which has now confirmed more than 1 million infections, on Sunday reported a 24-hour record of 38,902 new cases.

Pope Francis said "the pandemic is showing no sign of stopping" and urged compassion for those whose suffering during the outbreak has been worsened by conflicts.

UK ratchets up criticism of China over Uighurs, Hong Kong

LONDON (AP)—Britain and China issued new salvos of criticism against each other Sunday, with the U.K. foreign secretary hinting that he may suspend the U.K.'s extradition arrangements with Hong Kong over China's moves against the city-state.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab also accused Beijing of "gross and egregious" human rights abuses against its Uighur population in China's western province of Xinjiang.

In response, the Chinese ambassador to Britain warned that China will deliver a "resolute response" to any move by Britain to sanction officials over the alleged rights abuses.

The comments were the latest signs of sharply increased tensions between the U.K. and China. Issues include China's treatment of its Uighur minority and a new, sweeping national security law that China imposed on Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous territory that Britain handed over to China in 1997.

Britain's recent decision to prohibit Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei from being involved in the

U.K.'s superfast 5G mobile network has further frayed bilateral relations.

Raab said Sunday that Britain's government has reviewed its extradition arrangements with Hong Kong and that he plans to make a statement Monday in parliament on the topic.

Earlier this month, Australia suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong in response to China's imposition of security legislation on the semi-autonomous territory. Critics see the new law as a further erosion of the rule of law and freedoms that Hong Kong was promised when it reverted to Chinese rule.

Raab added that while Britain wants good relations with China, it could not stand by amid reports of forced sterilization and mass education camps targeting the Uighur population in Xinjiang. "It is clear that there are gross, egregious human rights abuses going on. We are working with our international partners on this. It is deeply, deeply troubling," he told the BBC.

Liu Xiaoming, the Chinese ambassador, denied there were concentration camps in Xinjiang during

an interview with the BBC and insisted there are "no so-called restriction of the population." When confronted with drone footage that appeared to show Uighurs being blindfolded and led onto trains, Liu claimed there are many "fake accusations" against China.

Beijing was ready to respond in kind should Britain impose sanctions on Chinese officials, Liu added.

"If the U.K. goes that far to impose sanctions on any individuals in China, China will certainly make a resolute response to it," he said. "You have seen what happened between China (and) the United States ... I do not want to see this tit-for-tat between China-U.S. happen in China-U.K. relations."

Liu also said Britain "should have its own independent foreign policy, rather than dance to the tune of the Americans like what happened to Huawei."

The criticism echoed comments this week by a Chinese government spokeswoman who accused Britain of colluding with Washington to hurt Huawei and "discriminate, suppress and exclude Chinese companies."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Up north puts the versatile GMC Sierra AT4 to the test

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

DETROIT—When all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail, goes the old saying. But when all you have is nails, well—it sure is good to have a hammer.

That's the way I feel about pickups.

As a speed-addled sports car guy, hulking pickups are low on my list of performance vehicles. But when you need a tool to get things done, there is no substitute for a truck, as I found out when I escaped to northern Michigan recently in a 2020 GMC Sierra AT4.

Like a kind of mechanical centaur, pickups are half wheelbarrow, half auto. Travel with a family and the wheelbarrow half is useless—where does the luggage go? My recommendation: Buy a tonneau cover so you can use the bed for cargo when needed. Only Mrs. Payne and I would make this journey, so the Sierra crew cab's enormous rear seat was enough for our bags—and coolers, blankets, athletic bags, beverages and everything else you want on the lakes.

Recognizing the wheelbarrow's shortcomings, pickups have become ingenious about creating internal cargo space (my favorite is Ram trucks' "basement" compartments under the second-row floor). But the Sierra (and cousin Chevy Silverado) have their own hidden compartment—behind the backseat. What's next? A spinning door to a secret room?

This cleverness continues up front where the Sierra



2020 GMC Sierra AT4
(JIM FETS/GMC/TNS)

boasts twin glove compartments, center console storage deeper than the Mariana Trench—there's even a storage bin on top of the dash.

GM has been shamed for its uninspired interior design compared to, say, the Ram 1500. For example, where Ram uses a compact rotary gear-selector, Sierra sticks to an old-fashioned, steering-column shifter. Nice for space-saving—but, compare Sierra's stalk to modern variants found in a Tesla or Mercedes GLE, and the pickup seems oh-so-15-years-ago.

The interior blah is especially notable because the GMC's

exterior is typically awesome. Sculpted bod. Strong shoulders. Chrome grille. The AT4 got a lot of looks.

"Nice truck."

"Handsome truck."

The accolades just fell out of people's mouths. Sierra is also the sports car of trucks. With its best-in-class chassis light-weighting, I've enjoyed pushing GMCs through the twisties since the first 2016 Sierra Denali I drove with a Corvette-shared 6.2-liter V-8 under the hood.

My 2020 Sierra was outfitted with a 3.0-liter turbo-diesel inline-6, but it provided plenty of giddyap—particularly its

low end, 460-pound feet of torque. I had some fun through the Route 32 curves before my wife got tired of swinging from the A-pillar grab handle.

"Slow down!"

We arrived at our family cottage and there were plenty of nails needing a hammer after a long winter away. Like bicycles.

We share the cottage with family, and eight bicycles were strewn about the garage, six in various stages of disrepair: flat tires, seized wheels, rotted seats.

We called the local bike shop, who told us to bring them over. No problem, we had a

pickup. Bike capacity: six.

I know it's six because we stacked every last one into the GMC's rear bed. Side-by-side. Try that in a sports sedan.

The loading was made easier by GMC's six-function Multi-Pro tailgate. You know it from its jaw-dropping TV ads. Sports car motorheads like to wow friends by lifting the hood. I wowed neighbors with the Sierra tailgate. Push the button and ...

1. The full tailgate drops.

2. A loadstop bar keeps boards from falling out the back.

3. An inner gate enabled a second-tier loadstop.

4. Drop the loadstop and you have a work surface—or bar.

5. Drop the inner gate to "walk in" to the tailgate and create a standing desk.

6. Drop a step that makes stairs into the bed

I used that last feature to walk the bikes into the bed—a task that would otherwise require two people.

It wasn't just bike shops opening up north. Canoe rental outfits were open for river trips—but with a catch. Due to social-distancing regulations, they couldn't pick us (and canoes) up in their vans at the end of the journey.

"We'll rent you the canoes at a discount if you can bring them back yourself," they said.

No problem. We had a pickup.

We dropped the Sierra at a pick-up point—then piled into my son's rental car (he and his gal pal had flown in from Seattle) to drive to the put-in spot. After our two-hour canoe trip, we loaded the canoes into

the pickup for the ride back to the canoe shop.

The Multi-Pro tailgate proved its worth here, too, as the "walk-in" feature allowed me to better tie down the canoes. Meanwhile, my son used the GMC's corner bumper steps (why aren't all truck equipped with these?) to jump in and out of the bed around the canoes.

Up north is pickup country. Far from urban Detroit where vehicles are used for commuting to tight parking garages, big trucks have more room to maneuver. The Sierra AT4 is also lifted two inches to explore irregular terrain.

At a lifted \$83,565, the Sierra costs the same as a, cough, a Mercedes GLE SUV. That's one fancy hammer.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 GMC Sierra AT4

■ Vehicle type: Front-engine, four-wheel drive, 5-passenger pickup

■ Price: \$54,995, including \$1,595 destination charge (\$83,565 as tested)

■ Powerplant: 3.0-liter inline-6 cylinder diesel

■ Power: 277 horsepower, 460 pound-feet of torque

■ Transmission: 10-speed automatic

■ Performance: 0-60 mph, 8.3 seconds (Car and Driver est.); towing, 9,000 lbs.

■ Weight: 5,270 pounds (base)

■ Fuel economy: EPA: 23 mpg city/30 highway/26 combined (in 2WD)

Report card

■ Highs: Best tailgate in class; sculpted good looks

■ Lows: Uninspired interior; gets pricey

Motormouth: This car will tell you when to replace brakes

Q: My wife and I have a C300 Mercedes with 55,000 miles. Every time the car has been serviced, I'll ask for a brake check even if it's not part of the service code. They always check fine. My adviser has told me repeatedly that there will be an "idiot light" indicating time to replace but it hasn't happened. Occasionally, I'll feel the front wheels pulsing (as to indicate wear or warp) but it diminishes as quickly as it appeared. I've NEVER had a car that has gone this long without a replacement of some kind. Are their pads so much better? Does the "always insist on genuine parts" really mean something?

A: Yes, you can always rely on the original equipment

parts to be what came with the vehicle, but improved parts may be available. We like to replace the pads when the lining wears down to about 4-5 mm. Your car is equipped with wear sensors that will trigger a reminder light when it is due for brakes. That pulsation you feel is probably surface rust on the rotors that gets wiped off by the brakes after a few applications.

Q: I have a 2004 Chevy SSR whose convertible top will not retract. It has only 25,000 original miles. Brought it to the Chevy dealership to have it checked out. They informed me that the pump motor needed to be replaced but the part was discontinued and there was nothing they could do.

So now I have a vehicle that I can't use or sell with the top down. I have interested buyers but not if the top is inoperable. They only made the SSR for four years. Is there nowhere to find a new motor? The car is in pristine condition otherwise.

A: We Googled SSR convertible top motors and got numerous returns. Some were professional rebuilders some were used motors on eBay. One was a wholesale GM parts company.

Q: I have a 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe with one of those fancy heated windshields. I have never used this feature and think it's overkill. Now I need to replace the windshield due to cracks and chips. What would normally

be a \$150 replacement is now \$275. Can I decline the fancy windshield and just get a regular one? Will the shop let me do this or are they legally required to replace like-for-like? Also, what do you think of those roadside windshield crack repair vendors?

A: Most small chips such as stone damage are reliably repairable. Most insurance companies will cover them with no deductible. Yes, you can replace the windshield with a non-heated one.

Q: I have a 2011 minivan. I place a thermometer in the A/C outlet vent in the summer to observe the air temperature. Today the outside temperature was 93 and the thermometer in the A/C vent

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

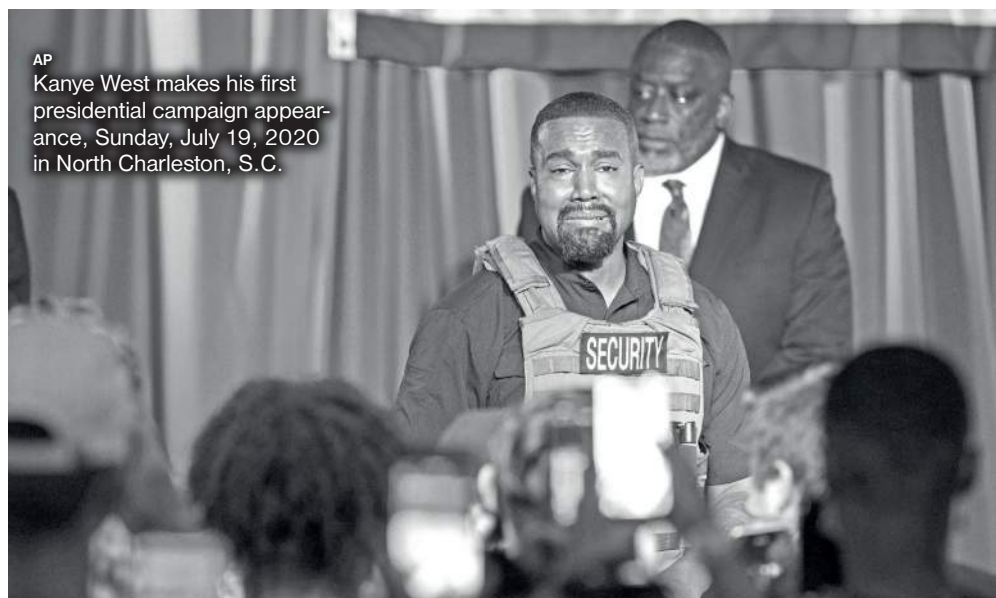


read 58. (I'm not complaining, as the A/C performance is acceptable.) Is there is a mechanic's rule of thumb that says if/when the delta temperature with the A/C operating reaches a certain number it is time to add a can of refrigerant?

A: There is no rule of thumb. A tech needs to connect a set

of gauges to read the high pressure and low pressure sides of the system to establish the need for more refrigerant. Modern vehicles seldom leak refrigerant unless something was damaged. Keep in mind that outside temperature and humidity do affect the air conditioning performance. Relax. Be cool.

Life & Style



AP
Kanye West makes his first presidential campaign appearance, Sunday, July 19, 2020 in North Charleston, S.C.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Rapper Kanye West, in his first event since declaring himself a presidential candidate, ranted against historical figure Harriet Tubman on Sunday, saying the Underground Railroad conductor “never actually freed the slaves, she just had them work for other white people,” comments that drew shouts of opposition from some in the crowd.

West delivered a lengthy monologue, touching on topics from abortion and religion to international trade and licensing deals, before a

crowd in North Charleston, South Carolina. Whether he is actually seeking the nation’s highest office remains a question.

Tubman is one of the most respected figures of 19th century America. An African American who escaped slavery, she helped enslaved Black men and women travel north to freedom and fought for the Union during the Civil War. She later became a supporter of women’s suffrage.

On abortion, West said that while he believes it should be legal, financial incentives to

help struggling mothers could be a way to discourage the practice.

“Everybody that has a baby gets a million dollars,” he said as an example.

Wearing a protective vest and with “2020” shaved into his head, the entertainer appeared on a livestream of the event. Several hundred people gathered in a venue, where gospel music played before West’s appearance.

The event was reportedly for registered guests only, although a campaign website had no registration or RSVP

Visitante, half of Calle 13, is no more. Meet Cabra.

NEW YORK (AP)—Calle 13’s Eduardo Cabra is shedding his Visitante persona in a graphic new video that serves as a launch for his solo career and new record label.

The artist will now be known simply as Cabra. The debut is not without some bloodshed.

In “La Cabra Jala Pal Mon-

te,” filmed pre-pandemic in Argentina and released Friday, a man dressed in black from head to toe and with his face covered cuts Visitante’s throat before taking off his hood to reveal his identity: Cabra himself.

“Without Cabra there is no Visitante,” sings the 28-time Latin Grammy and Grammy winner from Puerto Rico in

the song released on Friday, whose title—literally translated as “The Goat Pulls to the Mountain”—borrows from a Latin American saying about the return to one’s origins.

“I don’t see it as a death,” the veteran producer told The Associated Press Friday from his studio in San Juan. “I see it as Cabra was always there.”

Kanye West

criticizes Harriet Tubman at his political rally

information.

Speaking without a microphone, West became tearful at one point while talking about his mother, who died following plastic surgery complica-

tions in 2007.

West missed the deadline to qualify for the ballot in several states, and it was unclear if he was willing or able to collect enough signatures required to

qualify in others. Last week, he qualified to appear on Oklahoma’s presidential ballot, the first state where he met the requirements before the filing deadline.

Vintage dress, no Prince Andrew in Beatrice’s wedding photos

LONDON (AP)—Princess Beatrice wore a vintage dress loaned to her by her grandmother Queen Elizabeth II at her wedding to Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, Buckingham Palace said Saturday as it released official photographs from the private family event.

The queen’s granddaughter and the property tycoon were married Friday in the Royal Chapel of All Saints at Royal Lodge, Windsor. The 94-year-old British monarch and her husband Prince Philip, 99, attended along with the parents and siblings of the bride and groom.

The palace said guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19 were followed at the ceremony. Music was played but there were no hymns and no singing -- not even during the national anthem, “God Save the Queen.”

Beatrice, 31, wore a vintage ivory taffeta dress by Norman Hartnell and a diamond tiara that was worn by the queen on her own wedding day in 1947. The 36-year-old groom wore a morning suit.

Beatrice, the daughter of Prince Andrew and his former



In this photograph released by the Royal Communications of Princess Beatrice and Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, Britain’s Princess Beatrice and Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi stand in the doorway of The Royal Chapel of All Saints at Royal Lodge, Windsor, England, after their wedding on Saturday July 18, 2020.

AP

wife Sarah Ferguson, had originally planned to marry Mapelli Mozzi on May 29 in the Chapel Royal at St. James’s Palace. The ceremony was postponed because of the pandemic.

The nuptials have also been overshadowed by questions about Andrew’s friendship

with the late American sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The prince has stopped performing public royal duties amid demands by U.S. authorities to question him about Epstein, who died in a New York jail in August 2019 while facing sex trafficking charges.

After 30 years, first love reappears in woman’s life

DEAR ABBY: I have come into contact with my first and forever love again after 30 years. We have had a few encounters throughout the years. When they happened, we fell right back into our comfort zone.

We both have current relationships with others that are not satisfying. We have both had failed relationships as well. No relationship I have ever been in compares to the one I have with this man. He’s successful and buries himself in his work. Even though he never says it, I know in my heart he has hidden feelings toward me as well.

This man has held my heart my entire life. I never stopped loving him. Do I finally tell him how I feel and risk possibly losing him forever, or should I remain silent and enjoy the encounters we have when they happen?

WANTS IT ALL IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WANTS IT ALL: I think you should finally let this man know how you feel about him. If you do, it will either enable him to tell you he feels the same as you do, or stop you from fantasizing about a relationship that will never happen. If he is satisfied with the status quo, it doesn’t necessarily mean these encounters will end, but at least you will know them for what they are.

DEAR ABBY: My mother has no faith in me, mostly because I have a disability. Even though it’s not that bad, she still doesn’t think I can do anything hard. Although I’m almost 40,

she still tells me what to do and criticizes me in any way she can, including my parenting. I can’t spend a day with her without wanting to come home and take a bat to the walls.

I have a lot of anger inside, and I don’t trust her because she tends to tell her friends or family things I would rather were kept private. What can I do about this?

IRRITATED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR IRRITATED: If this is any comfort, I receive letters with the same complaint as yours from readers who don’t have disabilities. If your children are healthy and doing well and your mother’s criticisms are baseless, my advice is to tune your probably well-meaning but overbearing mother out. Because she discusses things you confide in her with others, quit telling her anything you don’t want broadcast. It’s easier than trying to muzzle her. You might also consider seeing your mother less often, which could save your walls and the wear and tear on the bat you’re tempted to use after those encounters.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to propose a new word for general use. It’s “wasband.” Definition: male to whom I am no longer married. Reason: “Ex” seems a pejorative term. I didn’t want to add that burden to the baggage our kids may have picked up.

I have used it since the mid-1990s. I began to think of a new term when I was in a social situation with my wasband,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



his wife and mutual friends. I bumped into a colleague and wasn’t quick enough to think of a polite term for my former husband, so I could only introduce him as “the father of my children.” I think “wasband” is a less awkward term. What do you think, Abby?

LOVER OF LANGUAGE IN WASHINGTON

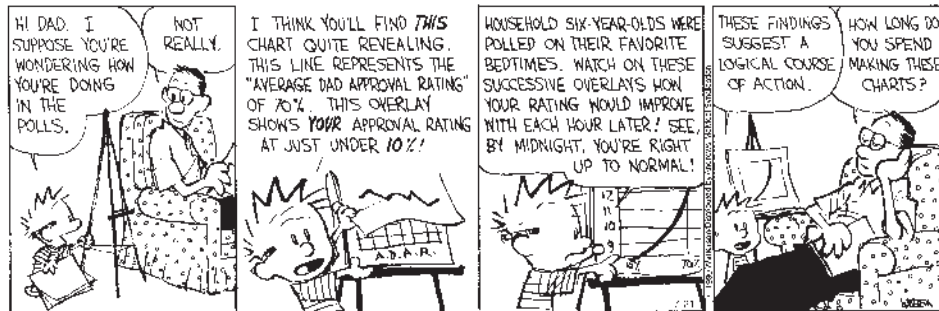
DEAR L.O.L.: I think it is clever. The term is listed in the Urban Dictionary, and because you started using it so early shows you are one smart cookie.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

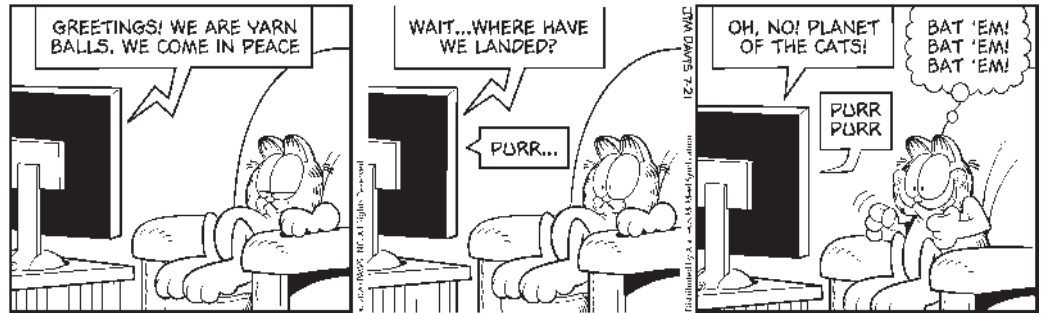
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



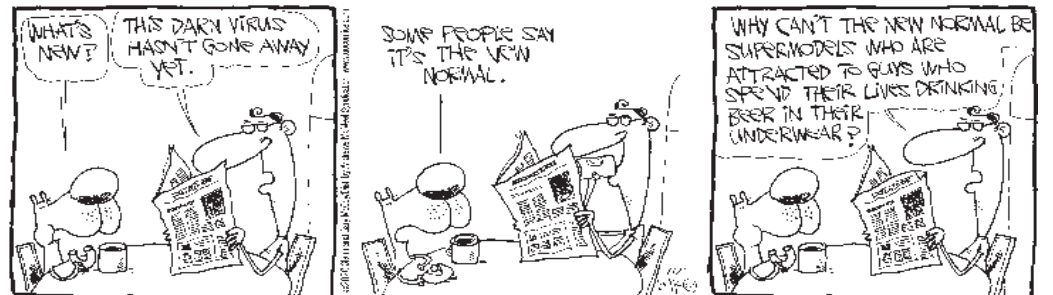
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

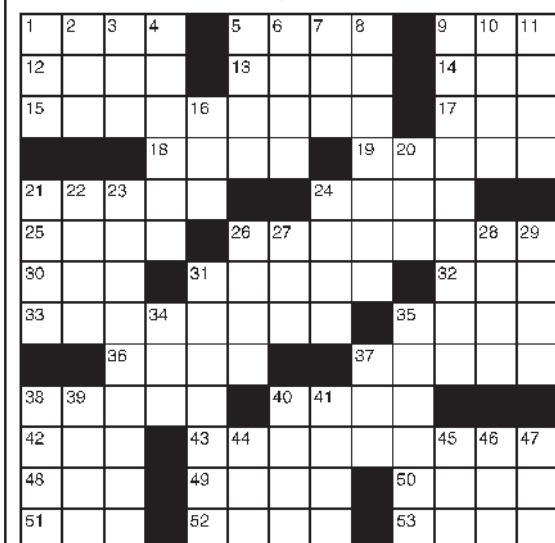
1 Actress Moore
5 Did laps
9 Clothing protector
12 Deserve
13 Winslet of "Titanic"
14 Gilbert and Sullivan princess
15 Greyhound operator
17 Tonic's mixer
18 Not difficult
19 Sill
21 Avocation
24 Songs for one
25 Body sci.
26 Current Twitter subject
30 Old Ford model
31 Whittles (down)
32 Unpaid TV spot
33 Planning aid
35 Fasting period

DOWN

1 Cotillion celeb
2 Vichy water
3 Doubtfire or Dalloway
4 Owing money
5 Aspen gear
6 Undulating
7 Consumed
8 Red wines
9 Celestial ladle
10 Beatnik's assent
11 Curse
16 Shaft of light
20 "Evil Woman" gp.
21 Sentry's cry
22 Aware of
23 Nightmares
24 Editor's "keep it"
26 Greet
27 Hosp. areas
28 "— It Romantic?"
29 Felines
31 Casanova
34 Not 'neath
35 Small pooch
37 Dan-son of "Cheers"
38 Swab brand
39 Cold War initials
40 Sagacious
41 Tolkien creatures
44 Candy-heart word
45 I love (Lat.)
46 — Aviv
47 Finale

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 7-21



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Juno Temple, 31; Justin Bartha, 42; Josh Hartnett, 42; Jon Lovitz, 63.

Happy Birthday: It's up to you to bring about the changes you want to happen this year. Plan your actions, and execute your intentions with precision. There is no room for anger if you intend to reach your goals. Stay focused on positive action, and you will get the results you want. Handle your finances with care. Impulsive spending will be your downfall. Your numbers are 2, 10, 21, 23, 36, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If you overreact, you'll have to pay the price. Think before you say or do something that will hold you back. Use your energy to work on personal improvement, not trying to change others. Do what will make you happy. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Implement a change that will allow you greater freedom to follow your dreams. Anger is a waste of time and will hold you back. Your success, however, will encourage you to reach for the stars. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen and learn, but before you use any of the information you've gathered, check your fact sheet to ensure you know what you are trying to say. Trust is built on reputation; exaggerating and offering false information will hold you back. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Plan your actions carefully, and you will make money instead of losing or wasting what you've worked so hard to save. Take your time,

put a plan in place, and find the best and cheapest way to get what you want. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Play to win, but play smart and with finesse. Let your agility, mental capacity and desire to get ahead push you in a direction that encourages you to strive for perfection. Personal gain is prevalent. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your emotions out of any encounter you have with people who don't share your opinion. Take the high road, and use intelligence, facts and understanding. How you present who you are and what you stand for matter. Recognize those harboring ulterior motives. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Check out what's going on around you. If you are insular, you will become part of the problem. Be kind, helpful and grateful for what you have. Walk away from negativity and toward constructive actions that result in a better life. ★★★★★

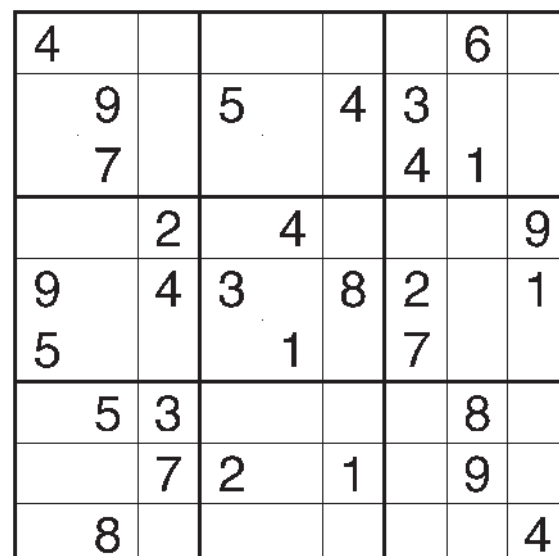
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Less emotion and more thought will lead to a better environment. Speak up and do your part. Don't leave the hard work to others when you have so much to offer. Opportunity evolves from positive change, dedication and transparency. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Update documents, investments and your standard of living. Revise as you reflect on your life. Declutter, pay it forward and ease stress. Life is about choices and doing your part to ensure a better environment for you as well as others exists. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



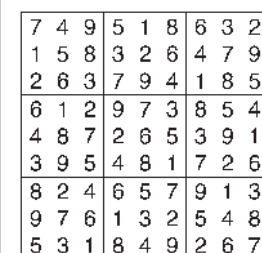
Difficulty Level ★★

7/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

7/20

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change begins within. Find out what the people you live with and love want. Incorporate everyone's needs into the adjustments you make to your surroundings, attitude and relationships. Being fair is the solution. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Fix up your surroundings, and make physical changes that make you feel good about the way you look. Make unique plans with someone you love. A positive lifestyle change will provide you with a healthy mind, body and future. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Create what you want, and lay down the foundation for a better life. Consider what you can salvage from your past and what's best to discard. It's up to you to make things happen. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are caring, sensitive and opinionated. You are opportunistic and helpful.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

COMMITTEES

Solution: 11 letters

B A S S E M B L Y E L E C T I
I M W T C F O E S U O H E N N
L A E H C R A E S E R N V E T
L A A E L O R U U N O E O M E
M I D Y T U D D C I S T R N R
R R A R F I R M S T L A P R E
O D Y A P O N I I A E D P E S
T E T T C L C G D G A I A V T
C Z I E L E A R N E D D I O E
E I R R D T A N S N E N P G V
R N A C E W F U N D R A I S E
I A H E A E F I N A N C E E N
D G C S K I L L R E P O R T T
E R A P E R P O L I C Y R O S
G O A L S R E E T N U L O V S

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7/21

Agenda, Approve, Assembly, Award, Bill, Board, Candidate, Chair, Charity, Decision, Director, Discuss, Duty, Elect, Events, Finance, Firms, Fundraise, Goals, Government, House, Interest, Investigate, Laws, Leader, Learn, Meeting, Organized, Panel, Plan, Policy, Prepare, Record, Report, Research, Role, Secretary, Skill, Team, Volunteer, Vote

Yesterday's Answer: Eating

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 or on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Players plead with NFL to address health, safety concerns



NEW YORK
(AP) — NFL players are publicly pleading with the league to address several health and safety concerns on the eve of training camp.

The league informed teams on Saturday that training camps will open on time even though discussions with the players' union regarding testing for the coronavirus and other health and safety protocols are ongoing.

Rookies for Houston and Kansas City are set to report Monday and rookies for other teams are due on Tuesday. Players for all teams are scheduled to report by July 28.

Many prominent players expressed their thoughts in a social media blitz Sunday.

"We need Football! We need sports! We need hope!" Saints quarterback Drew Brees wrote on Twitter. "The NFL's unwillingness to follow the recommendations of their own medical experts will prevent that. If the NFL doesn't do their part to keep players healthy there is no football in 2020. It's that simple. Get it done (at)NFL."

Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson said he is concerned because his wife, Ciara, is pregnant.

He wrote: "My wife is pregnant. (at)NFL Training camp is about to start.. And there's still No Clear Plan on Player Health & Family Safety. ??? We want to play football but we also want to protect our loved ones. (hashtag)WeWantToPlay."

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith and President JC Tretter addressed the union's concerns in a 90-minute video-conference call with reporters on Friday.



In this Oct. 3, 2019 file photo, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, left, looks for his teammates during an NFL game against the Los Angeles Rams in Seattle. AP

They want players tested daily for the virus. A joint committee of doctors, trainers and strength coaches formed by the NFL and NFLPA recommended testing every other day.

Other outstanding issues include number of preseason games. The league has planned to cut the exhibition schedule from four games to two while the union wants none.

Players also wanted a 45-day acclimation period to help avoid injuries. The league asked them to report early but the union declined. Questions remain on protections for players who want to opt out of playing.

All 32 teams have sent the union their Infectious Disease

Emergency Response that have been approved by joint infectious disease experts and NFL chief medical officer Dr. Allen Sills, according to a person familiar with the details. The person, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because protocols haven't been finalized, said the union has approved several and continues to review them.

On Friday, the league sent players and teams an Education Protocol for camp which requires clubs to distribute joint educational materials and to conduct educational sessions for players, staff and family members.

Tretter, a center for the Browns, wrote: "What you

are seeing today is our guys standing up for each other and for the work their union leadership has done to keep everyone as safe as possible. The NFL needs to listen to our union and adopt the experts' recommendations (hashtag)wewanttoplay."

Under the collective bargaining agreement, the NFL has the right to impose report dates and teams can fine players who don't report.

The NFLPA could file a grievance to argue the league isn't providing a safe work environment under the labor deal.

Cowboys star may skip training camp

Dallas Cowboys defensive

end DeMarcus Lawrence was one of several NFL players to speak out on Sunday over his concerns regarding the NFL's plan, or lack thereof, to start the season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

While he's due to report to training camp next week, Lawrence said he may not show up.

Lawrence's wife is pregnant and due in October, and he wants to put his family first.

"This is absolutely serious," Lawrence said. "Don't get me wrong. I want to play football so bad. I have been wanting to play ever since they shut down everything. But this is not like any other sport. This is a full-contact sport. We are

sitting here once inch off the football. That means the offensive tackle is going to be right there breathing right in my face the whole time. I have to go home and lay by my wife and kids right after that point. It's no way possible any man should sit here and jeopardize the health of his family and his household over a game."

Lawrence recorded 45 tackles and recovered two fumbles for the Cowboys last season, his sixth in the league. The 28-year-old is in the second year of his five-year, \$105 million deal, which included a \$25 million signing bonus.

If he doesn't report to camp on time, Lawrence may have to repay some of that signing bonus.



FLORIDA—Starting center Ivica Zubac has not yet joined the Clippers in the NBA restart bubble due to undisclosed personal reasons. Marcus Morris also has yet to arrive in Orlando, and also for an undisclosed reason. Montrezl Harrell had to leave the bubble for a family emergency, saying in an Instagram story it had to do with his grandmother.

That leaves just signed Joakim Noah as the only real center on the Clippers' roster right now (JaMychal Green could play some small-ball five for a short stretch, but that's not a solution). It's very possible the Clippers will be short-handed across the frontline for the scrimmages that start next week between teams.

Clippers continue to deal with depleted roster

Ask the Clippers about this and they shrug. It's business as usual.

"You know, we've been down and missed guys pretty much all season long, so we've been filling it in," Paul George said Saturday in a conference call with reporters. "We've been holding it down until everybody has been available, and we plan on continuing to do so."

The Clippers battled through guys being out all season—George missed the start of the season recovering from shoulder surgeries, Kawhi Leonard was getting load management time for his legs, Patrick Beverley and Landry Shamet missed time (and Shamet is not yet in Orlando), and the list goes on. However, after the All-Star break the Clippers

were healthy and starting to come together, and the team had by far the best net rating in the NBA for that stretch. Then came the coronavirus and the league shut down.

"It was a little frustrating because we played our way all the way up until that point, we played ourselves into that chemistry, into that zone we were in..." George said. "It was tough to take this little break. But I think ultimately it's going to pay off. Again, we had so many guys dealing with little nicks and bruises, and we were one of the teams that could have benefitted off of the healing process and coming together healthy. This break did wonders for this group, and we're going to pick up

where we left off at."

"We were hitting on all cylinders," Green said recently to reporters. "But it's a minor setback and it's just like a new fresh start for us. Everybody is healthy, so that's great. So we've just got to get it back going."

To get to where they left off, the Clippers need everyone in the Orlando bubble. They just are not discussing when that will happen. Clippers coach Doc Rivers was asked about Harrell's possible return.

"When he needs to get back, he'll be back," Rivers said.

Will the Clippers have time to get everyone on the court and their chemistry back? Answer: TBD. It's one of the many questions that make this NBA campus restart an exper-

iment unlike anything else in NBA history.

Nets sign Anderson

The Brooklyn Nets needed help on the wing after Michael Beasley tested positive for the coronavirus and left the bubble. Enter Justin Anderson.

The Nets announced Saturday they had officially signed Anderson, who reportedly is already going through the quarantine process in Orlando. Anderson was signed as a substitute player just for the restart and will become a free agent this offseason.

Anderson played in 216 NBA games with Dallas, Atlanta, and Philadelphia before this season. He had played 16 games the Long Island Nets of the G-League —where he

averaged 20.5 points and 6.6 rebounds a game—and got a 10-day contract with Brooklyn where he played in three games this season.

The Nets' roster has been hit hard in the run-up to the restart with Beasley, Spencer Dinwiddie, DeAndre Jordan, and Taurean Prince all out due to the coronavirus. Wilson Chandler has opted out because of health concerns. And that's not counting Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, and Nicolas Claxton who could not play due to injury.

Brooklyn enters the bubble as the seven seed in the East, just half-a-game up on eighth seed Orlando, but not in danger of falling back out of the playoffs because equally-shorthanded Washington is not likely to catch them. (AP/NBC)

Rahm reclaims No. 1 ranking; Woods struggles



DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—The drama was more than Jon Rahm wanted. The result was what he always imagined.

Rahm became the No. 1 player in the world Sunday with a victory in the Memorial in which he watched an eight-shot lead at the turn shrink to three shots with three holes to play, and then hit what he called the greatest shot of his life that turned into a bogey because of a penalty.

All that mattered was that fist-bump—not a handshake—with Jack Nicklaus, and taking his place along his idol Seve Ballesteros as the only Spaniards to reach No. 1 in the world.

With a two-shot penalty for his ball moving the length of a dimple on his chip-in behind the 16th green, Rahm closed with 3-over 75 for a three-shot victory over Ryan Palmer.

Rahm got up-and-down on the final four greens, which made it feel even sweeter.

“One of the best performances of my life,” Rahm said. “Yesterday was probably one of the best rounds of my life, and finished today with some clutch up-and-downs. As a Spaniard, I’m kind of glad it happened that way.”

The fiery emotion is his hallmark. He showed it with a tee shot that sailed left into a creek on the 11th hole, Rahm slamming his club into the ground in a pique of anger. And it was evident with that ferocious fist-pump when his flop shot from deep rough behind the 16th green rolled into the cup.

Birdie or bogey, it was a winner, a shot that would have made Ballesteros proud.

“I still can’t believe it, I’m not going to lie,” he told Nicklaus off the 18th green.

With the penalty—Rahm had no idea it was an issue after his round, but accepted the penalty when he saw a video that zoomed in close on the ball—he finished at 9-under 279 for his 10th career victory, fourth on the PGA Tour.

Muirfield Village played its toughest in 42 years, with only five players under par, the fewest for the final round since this tournament began in 1976. Rahm’s 75 was the highest finish by a winner since Roger Maltbie shot 76 the inaugural year.

The rough wasn’t cut all week. The greens were allowed to go to the edge because they are being replaced. Crews already had stripped the entire fifth green as the leaders were on the back nine.

Rahm looked to be playing a different course. He played bogey-free on the front nine



Spain’s Jon Rahm, right, is congratulated by Jack Nicklaus after winning the Memorial golf tournament, Sunday, July 19, 2020, in Dublin, Ohio.

won the Memorial for the fifth time in 2012.

Woods, in his first competition since Feb. 16 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, shot 76 and tied for 40th.

“Tough, tough conditions to start out my first week back, Thursday and Sunday,” Woods said. “But it was good to get the feel and the flow of competing again.”

Matthew Fitzpatrick had a 68 for the low score of the final day to finish third.

The consolation prize went to Palmer (74) and Mackenzie Hughes (72), who earned spots in the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in September as the leading two players from the top 10 who were not already eligible.

Henrik Norlander could have taken the final spot with a par on the 18th, but he missed the fairway well to the right, couldn’t reach the green and made bogey. Norlander and Hughes tied at 3-under 285, but the spot went to Hughes because he had the better world ranking.

That ranking now starts with Rahm, who only four years ago was at the Memorial to receive the Jack Nicklaus Award as the nation’s best college player.

Now he’s the best in the world, a ranking that McIlroy had since Feb. 9.

“He deserves it,” McIlroy said after his tie for 32nd. “He’s been playing great for a long time. Even the display this week, it’s pretty impressive.”

Nicklaus reveals positive test

Nicklaus revealed Sunday during the CBS telecast of the Memorial that he and his wife tested positive for the coronavirus at the onset of the pandemic.

Nicklaus and his wife, Barbara, turned 80 a month apart at the start of the year.

He said his wife had no COVID-19 symptoms, while Nicklaus had a sore throat and a cough. Nicklaus said they were home in North Palm Beach, Florida, from March 13 “until we were done with it” on about April 20.

“It didn’t last very long, and we were very, very fortunate, very lucky,” Nicklaus said. “Barbara and I are both of the age, both of us 80 years old, that is an at-risk age. Our hearts go out to the people who did lose their lives and their families. We were just a couple of the lucky ones.”

with birdies on the two par 5s. That put him eight shots clear on his way to No. 1.

And then he made bogey on the 10th. Not a problem.

He yanked his tee shot into a creek on the par-5 11th, and that was a bigger problem based on how hard he slammed the club into the ground in a pique of anger. He made double bogey. Palmer

made birdie on the 12th, and then Rahm made another bogey from the bunker on the 14th.

Just like that, the lead was three shots.

Only a week ago at Muirfield Village for the Workday Charity Open, Justin Thomas had a three-shot lead with three holes to play and wound up losing in a playoff to Collin

Morikawa.

Rahm was worried his tee shot might find the back bunker, though the rough was not a great option with how fast the greens were running. Rahm was thinking anything inside 10 feet would be good. This was perfect, the ball landing on the fringe and sliding down the slope into the cup.

As for the penalty?

“It doesn’t change the outcome of the tournament,” he said. “It just puts a little bit of an asterisk in it in the sense of I wish I could just keep that birdie because it was one of the greatest shots of my life, right?”

The chip was similar—but from a different angle—to Tiger Woods chipping in from behind the 16th green when he

Fed Cup captain casts doubt on US Open

BERLIN—The head of an exhibition tennis tournament in Berlin says she has doubts the US Open will go ahead at the end of August as planned amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“I think it is realistic that the ladies’ tour will start in Europe at the beginning of August as planned,” Barbara Rittner, captain of Germany’s Fed Cup team and director of this week’s Berlin tournament told newspaper Berliner Morgenpost.

“But in view of the immensely high numbers of infections throughout America, I don’t see the US Open taking place in New York at the end of August, mainly because the travel restrictions are high. As a player, I wouldn’t want to fly there.”

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States is the hardest-hit country in the world, with around 135,000 deaths and more than 3.2 million confirmed cases.

By comparison, Germany

currently has 200,260 cases and 9,078 deaths due to the virus.

Hygiene has been strictly observed at this week’s Bet1Aces exhibition tournament in Berlin, which Rittner is overseeing.

The event is being used as a model for the ATP and WTA, the men’s and women’s tennis tours respectively, which are due to next month.

The women’s WTA tour is scheduled to restart on August 3 in Palermo, Italy, followed by a tournament in Prague, with a separate tournament in New York before the US Open starts on August 31.

The men’s ATP tour resumes in mid-August with a tournament in Washington before the US Open.

Spectators and players in Berlin had their temperatures monitored and upon arrival, had to walk through a machine which sprays them with

disinfectant.

The extra hygiene measures reflected in the ticket price of 120 (\$136) to 150 euros with the daily crowds well under the 1,000-capacity at the Steffi Graf Stadium in west Berlin.

“So far, everything has gone smoothly. You really have to compliment the players and their teams,” added Rittner.

After his victory on grass in the rain-affected men’s final on Wednesday, world number three Dominic Thiem is the favourite for the hard court event which starts Friday in a hanger at Berlin’s Tempelhof Airport.

Thiem beat Italy’s Matteo Berrettini 6-7, 6-4, 10-8 in Wednesday’s final on grass and earlier in the week said he felt the US Open is on “shakey legs”.

Berrettini struggled when asked if he thinks the men’s



season will resume in the USA.

“That’s a tough question,” said the Italian ranked eighth in the world.

Serena to play next month

Serena Williams is planning to make her return to competition at a new hard-court tournament in Kentucky next month.

It’ll be the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion’s first action since playing for the U.S. in the Fed Cup in February, before all sanctioned tennis was shut down the next month because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The women’s and men’s professional tennis tours are scheduled to resume in August.

The Kentucky event, called the Top Seed Open, announced Thursday that Williams and 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens will be in the field when play begins there Aug. 10. (AP/NBC)

NL pitchers ponder season with no swings

NEW YORK (AP)—Three or four hours before a National League game, they'd be cackling around the cage.

Madison Bumgarner and buddies—or pitchers from any home team, really—taking batting practice under an afternoon sun in an otherwise empty ballpark.

After all the bunting drills, when they finally got to swing some lumber, you'd hear oohs and aahs, hoots and hollers, boasting and bragging, teasing and laughing.

Maybe even the occasional wager or two.

But that merry pursuit of a secondary skill is suddenly an endangered species in baseball. Under new rules for this

abbreviated season delayed by the coronavirus, all games will include the designated hitter—knocking NL pitchers right out of the batter's box.

"Well, obviously my thoughts don't really matter," said a smiling Bumgarner, the Arizona Diamondbacks newcomer who leads active pitchers with 19 career home runs. "I do what I'm told. I'll sit there and pitch and that's it for now. I think that's obviously where everybody wants the game to go, so it is what it is."

Looking to protect pitchers and simplify roster construction in the middle of a pandemic, Major League Baseball players and owners agreed to expand the DH this year to

the National League, a rule in place for AL clubs since 1973.

There's no guarantee the change will stick beyond this abnormal season sheared to 60 games—but it certainly might. And even if not next year, it seems a universal DH is coming soon that would mean pitchers never hit regularly again.

Decades of hot debate ... decided just like that.

"I'm upset I can't get a Silver Slugger," joked San Diego Padres right-hander Chris Paddack, who batted .119 as a rookie last season.

No more one-in-a-million surprises from funny-looking pitchers at the plate—like

Bartolo Colon's rousing home run in 2016, and Dae-Sung Koo's long double off Hall of Famer Randy Johnson in 2005.

Not in 2020, at least.

"I get it for this year, but I hope it doesn't continue," said Milwaukee Brewers All-Star starter Brandon Woodruff, a .267 hitter last season who homered off Clayton Kershaw in the 2018 NL Championship Series. "I think that's pretty much the consensus for all of our pitchers. We like to hit. It changes the game."

Of course, for every Zack Greinke (.280, three homers, eight RBIs last year) or

Adam Wainwright (10 career homers, 71 RBIs) or German Márquez (.300 average in 2018), there are dozens of other pitchers who appear completely overmatched at the big league level with a bat in their hands.

Not to mention legions of fans who'd much rather see a muscular DH taking dangerous cuts than an inexperienced starter flailing away or trying to sacrifice.

For them, the new rule is a welcome relief that saves some embarrassment.

"I don't have to punch out every time I go up there," Washington Nationals pitcher Austin Voth said.

Curiously, the push away

from pitchers hitting comes at a progressive time when creative teams seem much more inclined to experiment with two-way players than in the past.

DH/starter Shohei Ohtani is the biggest such star with the Los Angeles Angels, of course. But there's also Brendan McKay in Tampa Bay, reliever/outfielder Michael Lorenzen in Cincinnati and more in the minor league pipeline.

If a guy is uber-talented enough to contribute both on the mound and in the lineup, some clubs don't want to stifle that spark and waste a potential opportunity anymore simply out of skepticism or fear of injury.

FLASHBACK

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seconds in the 100m hurdles to defeat Pohnpei's Ashley Apiner (17.84 seconds) and Aleina Thomsin (20.79) and Palau's Eliana Koshiba-Panuelo (23.33 seconds) in the finals.

Also taking home a gold medal in Day 1 of the athletics competition was Lia Rangamar. She posted 34.63m in the javelin throw to prevail against Pohnpei's Apiner (32.13m), Tracy Ardos (29.06m), Deborah Steven (27.74m), and San-



THE KASELEHLE PRESS

In this 2014 file photo, the CNMI's Orrin Pharmin, second left, does the 110m hurdles event in the men's octathlon competition during the 8th Micronesian Games at the PNI Track and Field in Pohnpei.

donia Likor (24.62m) in the javelin throw.

The CNMI track team went on to earn 15 medals at the conclusion of the athletics competition. Rangamar's mom, Dolores took a gold medal in the discus throw, while

Beo Ngirchongor topped the 400m run and 400m hurdles, and Friendly Joy Pena, Jaynar White, Sapong, Lia Rangamar, Abrams, Jessie James, and Orrin Fermin gained silver medals.

Overall, team CNMI collected 14 gold medals, 15 silvers, and five bronzes in the 2014 edition of the Micro Games. Guam topped the medal tally with its 42 gold medals, 27 silvers, and 12 bronze, while Pohnpei (36-41-37) and Palau (36-31-38) rounded out the Top 3.

READY

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What's the setup?

Since AirBadminton is a new concept, Badminton Oceania is recommending to its member-federations to create a playing venue/environment that is convenient and safe for players.

AirBadminton can be played on grass, sand, or hard surface in parks, gardens, streets, and playgrounds. For safety, the surface should be leveled and uniformed and cleared from debris and other objects that may cause injuries to plays. For grass surfaces, it

is advisable to play in dry areas to minimize incidents of players slipping.

With AirBadminton played in an outdoor setting, positioning of the court and considering the weather condition are important. According Badminton Oceania's guidelines, the court "should be set up side on to the prevailing wind direction to allow for the best wind resistance." As for the game-day weather, it's best to play in a low-level wind or in overcast.

AirBadminton courts are longer than the indoor ones, 16-meters long compared to the latter's 13.4m. Courts



A player leaps for a return during an AirBadminton game at a grass court.

should be properly marked and posts must have appropriate height—1.55m from the surface of the court for grass and hard surfaces and 1.5 for sand.

What do you need?

Players will need rackets and AirShuttle.

Rackets must have thicker strings since AirShuttle is heavier compared to the traditional shuttlecock, 8 grams to 5 grams. String tension should be between 17 lbs and 20 lbs.

Badminton Oceania has partnered with a private

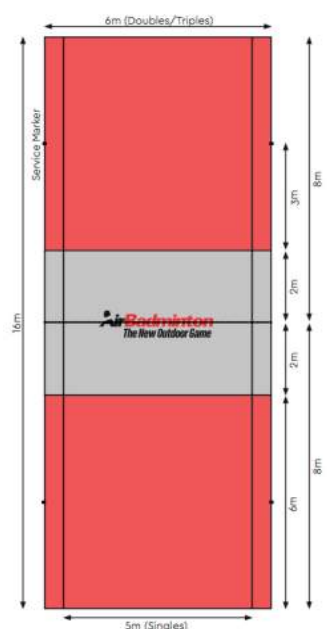
company—Victor—for the AirShuttle, a modified shuttlecock created with similar trajectory, acoustics, and play feel to that of a regular indoor shuttle, but with increased wind resistance (side and axial) since the game is played outdoors.

What are the rules?

As per BMF recommendations, for starters, AirBadminton can be played in a race to 11 points per game in a best-of-five setting. In case of a deadlock at 10-all, the first team/player to get a 2-point

lead wins the game. For a tie at 12-all, the side that scores the 13th point takes the game. The winner of the game gets to serve first in the next match. Courts switch should be implemented after the leading player/team's score reaches 6 points and at the end of each game.

Service is one of the basic shots in badminton and AirBadminton's case, it shall be done anywhere behind the 3-meter marker on the sideline with both feet stationary. The served AirShuttle should land anywhere on the opposing



BADMINTON OCEANIA
Badminton Oceania presents the AirBadminton court diagram with measurements.

side's playing area, but must be beyond the 2-meter line. Underarm serve is a must.

AirBadminton has singles, doubles, and triples categories and for the last one, players are not allowed to make two consecutive returns.

"This rule creates more movement and increases the strategic element of the game," according to Badminton Oceania.

Badminton Oceania encourages its member-federations to provide feedback on the "Getting Started" guide, specifically the usage of AirShuttle.



Players compete in the doubles event during an AirBadminton game at a hard court.



Players plead
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No. 1 ranking;
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

AIRBADMINTON STARTER GUIDE RELEASED

Northern Marianas Badminton Association's plan to introduce AirBadminton to the islands is moving forward as it received the "Getting Started" guide for the innovative game from Badminton Oceania.

The guidelines for introduction to AirBadminton cover information on the playing environment/venue, equipment, and rules. The game, which is played outdoor and is launched by Badminton World Federation last year, also utilizes drills taught in Shuttle Time.

"Given the diverse range of landscapes and stunning scenery offered across Oceania, the alternative version of the game is an exciting opportunity for players to get involved and enjoy the multiple health and social benefits of badminton," Badminton Oceania said as it released the Getting Started" guide to its member federations.

NMBA welcomed Badminton Oceania's latest information campaign and NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said they will share the guidelines to their members, particularly those who will volunteer to introduce AirBadminton to schools.

NMBA had earlier said that

Ready, set, play!



the Public School System Athletic Department, which oversees sports competitions among schools in the CNMI, has reached out to the association for the possibility of including AirBadminton to the list of programs to be offered to students in the next school year.

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Players from member-associations of Badminton World Federation enjoy AirBadminton at a sand court.

BADMINTON OCEANIA

Flashback: Track team delivers in Micro Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Six years ago, on this day, sprinter Rachel Abrams gave the CNMI track team a good start in the 8th Micronesian Games held Pohnpei.

Abrams won a pair of gold medals on the first day of the athletics competition at the PNI Track and Field after topping the 200m run and the 100m hurdles. She first raced in the 200m finals and had a record time after clocking in at 26.29 seconds. Abrams defeated five other finalists and surpassed the then CNMI and Micronesian Games marks (26.41 seconds) that fellow Commonwealth sprinter Yvonne Bennett recorded

during the 2010 Micro Games in Palau. The CNMI runner won over Nauru's Fritz Lanja (26.75 seconds), Marshall Islands'



Marian Cress (26.99), Kosrae's Lihen Jonas (27.67 seconds), teammate athlete Zarinnae Sapong (28.55), and Palau's Ruby Joy

Gabriel (28.57 seconds).

For her second gold medal, Abrams timed in at 17.50

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BADMINTON OCEANIA

Rackets and AirShuttle are the basic equipment needed to play AirBadminton.



KURT BARNES

In this 2014 file photo, the CNMI's Rachel Abrams (250) races in the 4x100m relay event during the 8th Micronesian Games at the PNI Track and Field in Pohnpei.